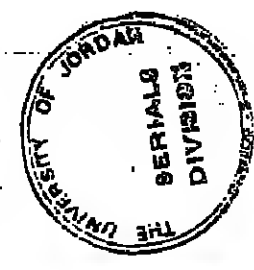


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Cruise
Tom Cruise on a pull-up bar from Born on the Fourth of July. The Cruise phenomenon — Page 3.

NEWSWATCH

Explorer to dig out lost city: British explorer Sir Ranulph Fiennes arrived yesterday to lead a desert expedition to locate the fabled lost city of Ubar, believed buried in the Arabian sands for 2,000 years.

His 10-man Anglo-American "trans-Arabia" team will explore the rolling sand dunes of the southern reaches of the vast Rub Al Khali, or empty quarter, desert of Arabia. (AP)

(See Page 2)

Labour rules: Expatriates in Kuwait overwhelmingly expressed their pleasure at the amendments issued last Saturday on labour regulations.

The ministerial decision issued by Social Affairs and Labour Minister, Sheikh Jaber Al Abdullah Al-Jaber which went into immediate effect were essentially hailed for their "foresightedness and pragmatism" in enabling expatriate employees in the private sector to change their residency permits from one sponsor to another after the completion of two years — instead of the previous three and further to switch employment from the government sector to the private sector and vice versa without any conditions — except the approval of the two sponsors.

Expatriates said: "With these amendments in the labour regulations, 'a host of difficulties' have been lifted from their shoulders."

See Page 11

Aids virus carriers in Bahrain: The numbers of Aids carriers in Bahrain has more than doubled in a year to 100, the English-language Gulf Daily News reported yesterday.

The newspaper said that 10 of the carriers of the HIV, human immunodeficiency virus, were expatriates who included nationals of Ethiopia, Denmark, the Seychelles, India and Syria. These were deported, it said.

Philippine general dies: Philippine's Brig Gen Alejandro Galido, who implicated Imelda Marcos, an American and others in last December's failed coup, died early yesterday of liver cancer, officials said. He was 54.

Galido gave up his post as chief of the military's southern Luzon command last December after he was implicated in a nine-day coup attempt that left 113 people dead and nearly toppled President Corason Aquino.

Grenade attack kills 1: A white man tossed a shrapnel grenade into a Johannesburg-area hotel bar packed with more than 100 black patrons overnight, killing one person, injuring 21, and signalling a new surge in right-wing terrorism, police and officials said yesterday.

(See Page 4)

Police shoot military officers: Philippine security officials shot and killed two senior military officers and seized \$10 million worth of heroin in a bizarre drug bust that some soldiers claim was a setup.

The operation began late Tuesday when police and National Bureau of Investigation agents closed in on what they said was a major heroin sale in the parking lot of a commercial centre in suburban Makati. (AP)

(Page 6)

40 killed in Medellin attack: A round of terrorist attacks in Medellin, Colombia left 40 people dead, including two police officers, a soldier, and ten youths, police said yesterday.

Saturday night's violence began when a car bomb exploded in front of the Medellin police headquarters, killing a 19-year-old pedestrian. Police have blamed Medellin's cocaine cartel for similar attacks in the past.

The bomb contained more than 110 pounds (50 kilos) of dynamite but only 65 pounds (about 32 kilos) exploded, police said.

Algeria supports oil price hike: Iran's Oil Minister Gholamreza Agazadeh met yesterday with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid in Algiers to coordinate its efforts for a hike in the price of oil in advance of the Opec ministerial meeting on July 25.

Tehran radio, monitored in Nicotia, said Agazadeh delivered a message to Bendjedid from Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani.

Singh withdraws resignation

No word on Chautala's fate; crisis remains: Bommai

NEW DELHI, July 15, (AP): Prime Minister V.P. Singh withdrew his resignation offer today but three of his ministers quit and a power struggle with Deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal remains unresolved, party officials said.

"For the sake of the nation, its unity and sovereignty, we asked (Singh) to withdraw his resignation, which he agreed to do," said N.T. Rama Rao, the chairman of the governing National Front alliance.

But Foreign Minister Inder Kumar Gujral and two other ministers resigned from the government today.

United News of India reported. The latest resignations brought the total number of top officials leaving the government since the crisis broke out to 13.

The other ministers who resigned today were Minister of State for Civil Supplies Ram Pujan Patel and Minister of State for Commerce Arangil Sreedharan. Deputy Foreign Minister Harikishore Singh also quit.

Rao made the announcement after a 90-minute meeting between National Front leaders and Singh. The Front is

composed of Singh's Janata Dal Party and four smaller groups.

On Friday three cabinet ministers resigned from the 7-month-old government to protest Devi Lal's reappointment of his son on Thursday to the top government job in Haryana state. On Saturday, six more ministers resigned and Singh offered his resignation.

Devi Lal's son, Om Prakash Chautala, had been forced from the chief minister's office last May after 12 people died in repeated election violence in his constituency.

(Continued on Page 7)



Rao (left) and S.R. Bommai announce at a news conference in New Delhi that V.P. Singh had agreed to withdraw his resignation. (Reuters wirephoto)



V.P. Singh's supporters shout slogans calling him to withdraw his resignation outside his house in New Delhi. (Reuters wirephoto)

Aggressive, bullying, egotistical — that's what the English say about Germans — Page 2

Sind spate of blasts kill 43

Hyderabad strike prompted bombings

HYDERABAD, Pakistan, July 15, (Agencies): Seven bomb explosions rocked this ethnically troubled city today, killing 43 people and injuring scores more, hospital and police officials said.

Six bombs, located in seemingly unrelated areas of the city, exploded within about 10 minutes of each other. The blasts killed 33 people and injured 110, said hospital officials, on the usual condition they not be

identified.

The bombs went off at several residential areas, a market and a bus stop.

The hospital officials feared the death toll would rise, while Pakistan's state-run news agency reported the official death toll in the six bombings was 12.

The discrepancy in the casualties was not immediately explained. The state-run news organisation, Associated Press of Pakistan, which reflects the government figure, usually reports a lower death toll than hospital and police sources.

Israel plans arming Arabs



OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, July 15, (AP): An extreme right-wing member of Israel's ruling coalition suggested today that groups of armed Palestinians might take on some of the army's duties in the occupied lands.

Eliakim Hacetzai of the nationalist Tehiya Movement said in an interview today he wanted to organize armed Palestinians supportive of Israel into units whose duty would be to "enforce order" in Palestinian villages in occupied lands.

"We should give them automatic weapons, police uniforms and radios and let them institute the law," he said.

Some 1.7 million Palestinians have been waging a revolt against Israeli rule in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip for 31 months.

In the past, Israel has issued weapons to some Palestinians who work with the authorities for purposes of self-defence.

Hacetzai, who lives in a West Bank Jewish settlement, said his proposal was submitted to the Defence Ministry in recent weeks.

Defence Ministry spokesman Dan Naveh said he had not yet seen the proposal, and therefore was unable to comment. "But we take any proposals by a member of the ruling coalition seriously," he added.

However, senior security officials dismissed the idea, saying the proposal was not being discussed in the Defence Ministry. The sources, who also said the plan was "most probably inappropriate," requested anonymity.

Yossi Sarid, of the left-wing opposition citizens rights movement, termed the plan "lunatic, the work of a fringe character."

He said he was confident that even the right-wing government of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir would not consider the proposal.

Hacetzai said the unit should be modelled on the Israeli-backed South

(Continued on Page 2)



V for victory
Albanian refugees wait outside a refugee camp for the people in West Germany (top) and at the bottom, an Albanian boy flashes 'V' sign as a woman feeds her baby while waiting with her husband at Ankara's Esenboga airport. (Reuters wirephoto)

See story on Page 5



Soviets rally
Thousands of Soviets, many waving flags of pre-revolutionary Russia and black banners of anarchy groups, marched through the rain yesterday (above) to protest the Communist Party's grip on power.

One police officer estimated that about 60,000 people had marched past him. The marchers started from Gorky Park on Moscow's south side and were heading for a rally just outside the Kremlin Wall.

"Communist Party onto the trash heap of history," said one banner carried by the crowd. "Communism no, democracy yes," read another.

One woman wore a wooden toilet seat around her neck, and labelled it "Polozkov," after the traditionalist leader of the Communist Party in the Russian republic.

The protest came just two days after the party concluded an historic congress in which Mikhail S. Gorbachev, himself enhanced his control of the party's centre but lost some of its best-known radical reformers, who quit.

Organisers of the march included the Moscow Voters' Club, the radical reform groups Democratic Platform and Democratic Russia.

Army to Colombo 'We can't win'

TRINCOMALEE, July 15, (Agencies): A top Sri Lankan army commander said today that the military could not win its civil war against Tamil separatists.

"A political solution is the only way out," said Maj. Gen. G.H. De Silva, who commands Sri Lanka's forces in the embattled eastern part of this island nation off southeastern India.

At least 2,400 combatants have died since ethnic Tamils violated a ceasefire in June and renewed their fighting against government troops.

Rebels stopped three buses yesterday and gunned down at least 35 Muslim passengers in eastern Sri Lanka, Defence Ministry officials said. Also yesterday, a Tamil politician claimed Sri Lankan soldiers massacred nearly 1,000 Tamil civilians during the past month of fighting.

The rebels also have been successful at maiming government soldiers with land mines.

"It is becoming difficult to control territory," De Silva said.

(Continued on Page 2)

De Silva's statements, made during an interview with three commanders, marked a departure from the government's stance in the 33-day-old fighting with Tamil militants.

Previously, military officials, including Deputy Defence Minister Ranjan Wijaratne, claimed the army would "exterminate" Tamil Tiger guerrillas. But military successes have been few.

At first, the government succeeded in pushing the Tigers from big towns in the east, such as Trincomalee and Batticaloa. But now government troops are unable to oust the rebels from their jungle hideouts.

The country's north remains in guerrilla bands. Even the main towns there are held by Tamil Tigers.

De Silva summed up the new pattern of the war: "When you hit, he hides. When you move out, he comes back."

He said the army did not have

Munich Olympic attacker in Berlin

BONN, July 15, (UPI): A West German daily claimed today that Abu Daud, considered one of the leading international extremists, is currently staying in East Berlin.

The claim followed a series of allegations that internationally-wanted extremists had lived in East Germany in the past under the protection of the former communist leadership.

The Berliner Morgenpost said today that Daud, 52, was currently staying in East Berlin, but the East German authorities said they had no evidence to back the claim.

Daud is believed to have played a key role in several attacks, including the 1972 attack on the Israeli Olympic team in Munich, in which 17 people were killed.

The paper said Daud had often resided in an East Berlin hotel under an assumed name in the past.

Meanwhile, the West German Spiegel magazine said it had obtained documents which show the United States authorities knew before the April 1986 bombing of a West Berlin discotheque that Libya extremists were planning an attack.

But the weekly said the disappearance of a double agent working for the CIA was probably the reason the US and West German authorities could not prevent the bombing of the La Belle disco.

Currency Rates

THE Central Bank of Kuwait currency rates against the Kuwaiti dinar on July 15, valued for July 17, 1990.

Currency	Buying	Selling
US dollar	290.003	290.087
Sterling	521.450	523.600
Deutsche mark	175.500	176.250
Swiss franc	206.550	207.500
French franc	052.300	052.550
Italian lire	0002395	0003410
Japanese yen	0019550	0019700
Bahraini dinar	769.650	771.650
UAE dirham	078.900	079.250
Saudi riyal	077.300	077.600

Saudis expected to open diplomatic links with China early next month

RIYADH, July 15, (AP): Saudi Arabia and China are likely to open diplomatic relations early next month, informed sources reported today.

The move would be a big prize for Beijing, since Saudi Arabia, home of Islam's holiest shrines and the most powerful of the

Gulf Arab states, has yet to establish diplomatic relations with any communist nation.

Taiwan said yesterday that its relations with oil-rich Saudi Arabia had reached an all-time low and implied that a Saudi shift toward Beijing was imminent.

Some diplomatic sources said

that opening relations with China could smooth the way for the Saudis to re-establish links with the Soviet Union, broken off by Moscow in 1938.

But there were no indications that such a move was imminent. There was no official comment in Riyadh about opening rela-

tions with Beijing.

But one Western diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that when the two countries established trade relations in April 1989, "their intention was to have trade relations for one year, then to upgrade to full diplomatic relations."

The Chinese opened their trade mission in Riyadh in April last year. But Riyadh's delegation to China was delayed for several months because of the crackdown on pro-democracy protesters in Beijing's Tianan-

(Continued on Page 2)



Ridley with his wife Judy in his house in Cheltenham after he was forced to resign from British cabinet. (Reuters wirephoto)



Peter Lilley, who was named to replace Ridley as Secretary of Trade and Industry. (Reuters wirephoto)

Anglo-German row

Thatcher names Ridley's successor

LONDON, July 15, (Agencies): Anglo-German relations were dealt another blow today after the disclosure that British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher chaired a confidential meeting in March at which the "defects of the German character" were discussed.

The Independent on Sunday newspaper reported that the meeting, which took place at Chequers, the prime minister's country residence, was attended by the UK Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd and a panel of

advisers comprising six academics and experts on Germany. A Downing Street minute of the meeting, leaked to the paper, revealed that a list of supposed German national character defects was drawn up at the meeting.

Although the general conclusions of the meeting were positive, flogging that Britain "should have no real worries" for the immediate future, a number of unflattering German traits were cited as "reasons for concern" in the long-term.

These included "angst, aggressiveness, assertiveness, bullying, egotism, inferiority complex and self-righteousness," as well as "insensitivity to the feelings of others, their obsession with themselves, a strong inclination to self-pity and a longing to be liked."

Today's revelation follows swiftly on the resignation of UK Trade and Industry Secretary Nicholas Ridley, one of Thatcher's closest political allies, following his outspoken remarks accusing Germany of trying to take over Europe.

Thatcher publicly disowned the remarks, saying they did not represent her own views.

However, the fact that she did not take immediate action to dismiss Ridley has been construed by some observers here as an indication of her private sympathy for his views, if not for the manner in which they were expressed.

UK government sources said today that in view of all the changes taking place in Germany, it was hardly surprising that a seminar had been held on Germany.

But observers here pointed out that the revelation is bound to make it more difficult for the government to repair the damage to Anglo-German relations caused by Ridley's undiplomatic remarks.

Ridley told the Spectator that European unity moves were "a German racket," tantamount to accepting domination by Adolf Hitler, that the French were "behaving like poodles to the Germans," and that the 12-nation European Community was a flimsy body run by reject politicians.

He also expressed grave doubts about West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl. Ridley retracted the remarks, but he had already incensed officials in the EC, France and West Germany, which is Britain's largest trading partner.

Ridley's resignation was a flimsy body run by reject politicians. He also expressed grave doubts about West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl. Ridley retracted the remarks, but he had already incensed officials in the EC, France and West Germany, which is Britain's largest trading partner.

'Charge de mission' for rock, pop

Bid to bolster one of France's less-renowned industries

PARIS, July 15, (AP): Undeterred by rock 'n' roll's anti-establishment heritage, the government is trying to bolster one of France's less-renowned industries through the work of a 27-year-old junior minister of rock.

"Monieur Rock," as he was dubbed by the press, is Bruno Lion, a denim-clad dynamo with degrees in law and political science.

His office title at the Culture Ministry is "charge de mission" for rock and pop music, but he doesn't object when the title is translated as junior minister.

He was picked last year by Culture Minister Jack Lang to revitalize a domain by foreign talent or homegrown copycats.

The appointment met with ridicule and even outrage from some critics who believe rock loses its soul by being absorbed by the establishment.

"Any country that needs a minister for rock is not a rock country," said Lionel Rotage, editor of the French edition of Rolling Stone magazine. "He should resign—that would be the rock thing to do."

Lion, the son of a prominent businessman, has persevered, chasing down financial and

media support. With a 1990 budget of 43 million francs (\$7.8 million), he expects to set up a solid support structure for musicians and industry professionals, including direct subsidies to artists.

His tasks also involve promoting native talent — no easy matter given France's dearth of concert space and poor reputation as an inspiration for rock.

"France is under-equipped compared to its neighbors. When I took the job, we had as many concert halls as there are in Greater London or in Holland, and we're 12 times bigger," Lion said in an interview.

His priority is to get groups out of suburban basements and subway stations and onto the stages of concert halls and clubs. Since he took office in May 1989, the government has helped finance nearly 100 new auditoriums.

Lion's appointment was hardly a disinterested cultural gesture. "A little investment can go a long way," Lion said, noting that the government earns more than 1 billion francs (\$180 million) yearly in taxes from record sales.

Although his job goes beyond taking Lang

to rock concerts, Lion does see himself as something of a talent scout. He said he works 14-hour days, lobbying for formation of a major, all-French record company, financing music videos, trying to get rock into high schools.

One of his goals is to launch French groups internationally.

"At this year's new music seminar in a New York, about 250 French musicians will perform, as opposed to only 10 in 1988 and 196 in 1989," he said. "At least half of them will come away with contracts and bookings."

A follow-up measure includes the opening of a French music office in New York in 1991. Lion, however, is concerned about the new US immigration requirements for artists seeking temporary work permits. Lang and the other West European culture ministers have protested the measures, which virtually exclude all but a handful of foreign performers who can prove "financial success and artistic worth."

"The American laws discriminate against foreign artists," Lion said. "Look at Zouk Machine, number one on the top 50 charts

here for three straight weeks. They are still waiting for their visa."

Lion said the European Community may be forced to retaliate to make its point.

"Looking ahead to 1993 (when a unified EC market is established), we're talking about a European export market of 340 million people," he said.

What does he think about being Laos's special adviser for rock?

"I'm just another facet of Lang's efforts to broaden the cultural horizon," he said, noting the ministry's encouragement of such diverse fields as comic books, gastronomy, fashion and the circus.

Lion, generally clad in a black polo shirt, jeans and an expensive leather jacket, was wearing one of the Beatles and took up saxophone and bass. "Which I massacred," before turning to management and production.

In recent years, Paris has emerged as a capital of "world music" — catchy rhythms sung in French, Arabic, Spanish and Caribbean dialects and updated with state-of-the-art technology.

Chileans fire on Soviet trawler

SANTIAGO, Chile, July 15, (AP): A navy patrol boat fired on a Soviet trawler that was discovered in territorial waters and ignored orders to halt, a navy spokesman said.

There was no word if there were any injuries or if the vessel, which fled, was damaged.

The incident occurred early yesterday in the Pacific Ocean 182 miles (292 kilometers) off the southern coast, not far from the port city of Puerto Montt, the spokesman said. The statement, issued yesterday, was carried by Santiago newspapers today.

It said a navy patrol boat spotted the trawler, identified as the Odishi, in the pre-dawn hours and ordered it by radio and lantern to stop and let authorities board.

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Bastille Day

Flamboyant showman Jean-Michel Jarre lit up western Paris before more than two million people on Saturday in a spectacular music and light show to celebrate Bastille Day.

The year-old grande arch and adjacent skyscrapers in the financial district of Arch de la Defense were bathed in dazzling, swirling colors, changing in rhythm with Jarre's symphonic rock music while searchlights and fireworks formed a canopy overhead.

The banks of the Seine on the capital's western edge were packed with people, as was a two-mile stretch of broad avenue from the river to the Arc de Triomphe. Loudspeakers and video screens lined the avenues, and even two miles from the site of the show the effects were stunning enough to draw cheers.

The crowd was estimated at 1.5 million before the concert began, but hundreds of thousands more people, from toddlers to nuns, kept filling distant streets as it started,

many of them unable to get a direct view even from afar. The show followed a traditional military parade in the morning and a pledge by President Francois Mitterrand to keep French nuclear and conventional forces independent and strong.

"Defence is part of the imperial obligations of the nation," Mitterrand told journalists after 7,000 servicemen trooped down the Champs-Elysees to celebrate the start of the French revolution.

The remarks came in an interview the French leader gives every July 14 to mark the fall of the Bastille prison in 1789. The event sparked the revolution that toppled Louis XVI and gave France its first republican government.

Pictures show fireworks illuminate Paris' sky as photographs of French-oceanographer Jacques-Yves Cousteau are projected on skyscrapers. (Reuters wirephoto)

Saudi Arabia

(Continued from Page 1)

men Square.

Outrage over the student massacres has now dissipated, another diplomat said, and "a lot of countries seem to be getting along well with China these days."

"It would be a good time for the Saudis to begin diplomatic relations," he said.

Beijing scored heavily with the Saudis in 1986 when they turned to it for long-range missiles. They concluded their first arms deal with a neo-Western country for an undetermined number of CSS-2 ballistic missiles capable of hitting Iran and Israel. The agreement was disclosed in 1988.

Speculation that diplomatic links between Riyadh and Beijing would soon take place followed last week's unexpected visit to China by the Saudi Ambassador to Washington, Prince Bandar.

The Prince, son of the kingdom's Defence Minister, Prince Sultan, was instrumental in setting up trade relations between the two countries in November 1988.

In Beijing, Bandar met with Prime Minister Li Peng, Foreign

Minister Qian Qichen and Vice Foreign Minister Yang Puchang.

China has been an ardent supporter of the Palestinians. As a permanent member of the UN Security Council, it has pledged to support any move to curb large-scale Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel and the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Gulf Arab states believe that China can use its political clout to help transform the two-year-old ceasefire between Iran and Iraq into a lasting peace on basis of Security Council resolution 598.

After the Tiananmen Square killing, Beijing launched a diplomatic campaign that focused on the Gulf's conservative states in an apparent quest for investment to offset Western sanctions.

Chinese President Yang Shangkun visited the United Arab Emirates, Oman and Kuwait late last year, and his foreign minister visited the UAE, Qatar and Bahrain.

The UAE President, Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, recently made his first visit to Moscow.

Israel

(Continued from Page 1)

Lebanon, a UN peacekeeping mission has not been able to prevent Israeli troops from entering the West Bank and Gaza, Arab reports said.

But Ariel Shalev, a former West Bank military governor, said the situation in the occupied territories could not be compared to that of Lebanon.

He said Lebanese militia was supported by a sympathetic local population which did not object to Israel's presence, while in the occupied lands "the entire Palestinian population doesn't want us there."

In the course of the uprising, 236 Palestinians have been killed by other Arabs on suspicion of co-operating with Israeli authorities.

The latest death came today when a suspected collaborator was hanged to death in the West Bank town of Nablus, Arab reports said.

The Israeli news agency Ilim identified the man as 55-year-old Fawzi Dawidat.

Police confirmed the death, and said they were investigating the incident. A leaflet issued today by a radical Islamic group in Nablus vowed it would kill Palestinians suspected of collaborating with authorities.

"We call on all collaborators to yield to forces of the Islamic revolution," the leaflet said.

Al-Jazeera, a Palestinian news channel, said Israeli troops were throwing stones with Israeli troops in the West Bank and Gaza, Arab reports said. The army confirmed two wounded.

Some 723 Palestinians have died of Israeli gunfire in the revolt, and 45 Israelis also have been slain in the violence.

Ambiguous written rules on opening fire in the occupied territories and broad oral policies have led to an unacceptable number of deaths in Israel's attempts to quell the Palestinian uprising, an Israeli human rights group said today.

The 51-page report by B'tselem, the Israeli information centre for human rights in the occupied territories, concludes that the Israeli military must reformulate its rules of engagement to make them "clear and unequivocal."

Soldiers found violating the orders must receive more severe punishments, the report also said.

"Overall, the facts evoke an image of an itchy trigger-finger, a lax observance of regulations, the absence of exhaustive investigations and a failure to mete out deterring and educational punishment — to the point where legitimacy is conferred on unjustified firing and violation of the law," Roni Talmon, the report's author, wrote in her summary.

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Lanka

(Continued from Page 1)

enough troops "to hold every area."

Tamils comprise about 18 per cent of Sri Lanka's 16 million population. Most Tamils are Hindus and they say they are discriminated against by the Buddhist Sinhalese majority.

Moderate Tamils want more autonomy for their communities in the north and east of Sri Lanka, where they predominate, while militants are fighting for a separate nation.

Rebels receive assistance from civilians who either support them or are afraid to resist.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) terrorists, who have abducted 168 Muslims returning from Haj pilgrimages and some from Middle East countries, are now demanding a ransom of 75,000 Sri Lankan rupees per person to release them, according to Muslim sources in the eastern province of Sri Lanka.

Thirty-five of the abducted Muslims have been killed, probably the young, but the balance are being detained in secret places to collect the ransom money, security sources said.

Sources in the eastern province said the Muslims were travelling in three vans and a truck after overnight stay in eastern Ampara.

PONTASSIEVE, Italy, July 15, (UPI): A six-year-old Italian girl whose father died of a heart attack at the wheel of his car on a busy motorway was in shock today after walking for more than a kilometre through a tunnel in search of help.

Officials said that Vanessa Moretti was riding with her 33-year-old diabetic father Marco when the man was struck by the heart attack yesterday during a trip to the beach. They said he managed to stop the car and turn on the emergency flashers before dying in the vehicle on the roadside near Florence.

Police said that a terrified Vanessa left the car and made her way through the busy tunnel as traffic sped by.

But they said that on driver stopped to help and that the child was finally rescued by motorway personnel when she came out of the tunnel.

Marco Moretti had two previous heart attacks, the last one three years ago, officials said.

UK explorer to locate lost city

Ubar buried in sands

MUSCAT, Oman, July 15, (AP): British explorer Sir Ranulph Fiennes arrived today to lead a desert expedition to locate the fabled lost city of Ubar, believed buried in the Arabian sands for 2,000 years.

His 10-man Anglo-American "trans-Arabia" team will explore the rolling sand dunes of the southern reaches of the vast Rub Al Khali, or empty quarter, desert of Arabia.

Ubar is described in the Quran, the Muslim holy book, as "a many-columned city... whose like has never been built in the whole land."

It is believed to have been swallowed by shifting sand dunes during a particularly severe sandstorm in 30 BC.

The city is also mentioned in the "Arabian Nights" as famous for its lavish royal court, lush palm groves and fine camels and horses.

Other references in ancient texts place it close to the frankincense groves of southern Arabia and describe it as a great caravan trade centre.

The six-day reconnaissance for the ancient city begins tomorrow. "It looks hopeful," Fiennes told the Associated Press.

He first reconnoitered the desert 22 years ago when he was a British army captain on secondment to the Omani army.

Researchers have pinpointed eight likely locations for the lost city. These are based on digitized space technology data supplied by the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration, as well as on medieval Arabic texts and early 20th century travellers' tales.

Remote sensing by sand-penetrating radar aboard the US space shuttle Challenger in 1984 indicated the existence of a buried roadway stretching for 100 kms (63 miles) in the desert north of Oman's westernmost Dhofar province.

Geologists at the US jet propulsion laboratory in Pasadena, California, also observed features they believe may be caused by a buried site.

Guided by light aircraft, Fiennes' exploration team will use specially designed desert vehicles to traverse the Rub Al Khali dunes that rise more than 185 metres (600 feet).

The ruler of Oman, Sultan Qaboos, has ordered his desert-trained police to provide logistic and ground support.

An expedition spokesman, who did not wish to be named, said the "principal objective will be to compare space imagery with ground features and to locate the Ubar road."

"We also want to investigate unusual features recorded by radar that may indicate a buried site," he added.

Mystery escape of six-year-old girl

PONTASSIEVE, Italy, July 15, (UPI): A six-year-old Italian girl whose father died of a heart attack at the wheel of his car on a busy motorway was in shock today after walking for more than a kilometre through a tunnel in search of help.

Officials said that Vanessa Moretti was riding with her 33-year-old diabetic father Marco when the man was struck by the heart attack yesterday during a trip to the beach. They said he managed to stop the car and turn on the emergency flashers before dying in the vehicle on the roadside near Florence.

Police said that a terrified Vanessa left the car and made her way through the busy tunnel as traffic sped by.

But they said that on driver stopped to help and that the child was finally rescued by motorway personnel when she came out of the tunnel.

Marco Moretti had two previous heart attacks, the last one three years ago, officials said.

Plane missing

NEW DELHI, July 15, (UPI): An Indian Air Force transport plane carrying five people disappeared and apparently crashed today, minutes before it was to land in southern Kerala state, the Press Trust of India said.

The plane was to land this morning in Trivandrum, 1,045 miles (2,230 km) south of New Delhi, but it disappeared and has not been located, the agency said.

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Friends & Relatives please treat this as the only information.
Inserted by sorrowing wife Leana, daughter Liberata & son Lyndon

مجلس الشعب

East German man flees communism to be cowboy in Wyoming

CHEYENNE, Wyoming, July 15, (AP): After spending two years in an East German prison for trying to break through the iron curtain to freedom, Steffen Petry is determined to live the free-spirited life of a cowboy on Wyoming's open range.

"From the time I was very little, I wanted to be a cowboy. From a little boy I knew about John Wayne," the 22-year-old said, referring to an actor who played in many cowboy films. Petry spoke through an interpreter during a

break in work at the Wyoming Hereford Ranch.

For the past few days, Petry has been pulling weeds and planting trees at the ranch just east of Cheyenne. He has yet to brand a calf, drive cattle or shoot a rattlesnake, but says: "I'm so happy."

He saddled a horse for the first time Wednesday and rode across the green plains of southeastern Wyoming.

"I know that America is a free land and

from Cheyenne where I am, I can see land, open spaces and houses — not only large apartment buildings," he said, sitting on a golden mare in a field of tall grass. "It's so crowded in Germany. It's so open here."

Prison

Petry decided to head to the cowboy state in late June — little more than six months after he was released from prison — when he read a West German newspaper article saying there

was a shortage of cowboys in Wyoming. Foreign workers are being allowed to take cowhand jobs in parts of the West where there is a shortage of qualified American cowboys.

Fantastic about the freedom and expanse of the Wild West he had seen on television and read about in books, he sold his meagre belongings, purchased an airplane ticket and arrived at the Cheyenne airport on a tourist visa.

He knew no one and could say only one

word in English: "cowboy."

He approached an airport maintenance worker who had a friend who spoke German. He finally was hooked up with the Sloan Hale family, who speak German and own the sprawling Wyoming Hereford Ranch.

For now Petry is staying with the Hales, who serve as his interpreters, until he can find a rancher with an opening for a cowboy who will sponsor him in hopes he can replace his tourist visa with a work permit.

He wants to spend the rest of his life in America, but worries that his stay could be short-lived.

Desire

Despite his desire to be a cowboy, he wore a white cotton blazer over a souvenir "Colorado" T-shirt, jeans, white socks and black loafer-style shoes.

"Not until I am a real cowboy, after I work for a year as a cowboy, will I wear a cowboy hat," he said. "Then I will be a real cowboy."



Madonna concert

US pop star Madonna performs at her concert in Turin on Friday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Rose to mark 100th birthday

BOSTON, July 15, (UPI): After living a century full of glory and grief, Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy turns 100 this month, surrounded by the family she mothered through political triumphs and national tragedies.

Congress has proclaimed her birthday, July 22, as "Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Family Appreciation Day," in tribute to the woman who, despite the violent deaths of four of her nine children, steered three generations of America's most famous family.

Born in 1890, the mother of president John F. Kennedy and Sens Robert and Edward Kennedy is confined to a wheelchair, but relatives say she draws strength from the surviving children, 29 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren who visit her at the Kennedy seaside compound on Cape Cod.

"She is in a wheelchair now. She watches the news everyday and goes outside," said her daughter, Eunice Kennedy Shriver, who heads a family foundation for the mentally retarded. "She loves having people around her, and all of us come."

"We go down to the cape almost every weekend," said grandson Michael Kennedy, chairman of a Boston non-profit energy group. "It's nice to be able to have my children there, and that's when she becomes most lively, when the grandchildren and great-grandchildren are around, or you get Teddy singing with her or one of my aunts."

Dozens of Kennedys and hundreds of other invited guests are slated to gather at her Hyannis Port home, July 15 for the official celebration, a luncheon presented by the Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. foundation awards in mental retardation.

The family foundation — named in honour of her eldest son, who was killed when his plane exploded over the English Channel during a World War II bombing mission — is also a legacy of her daughter Rosemary, who is mentally retarded.

Although Mrs Kennedy will not appear at the celebration, three women active in the field of mental retardation will be honoured with the Rose Kennedy Leadership Award, a medal bearing her likeness.

"She is aware of a good many things, but she is not at her best as she would like to be remembered," said Shriver, explaining why her mother will not appear in public.

The luncheon guests, ranging from Secretary of Education Laure Cavazos to humorist Art Buchwald, will view a 17-minute film on Mrs Kennedy's life.

Earlier in the day, broadcaster Maria Shriver will also air a segment about her grandmother on national television.

The daughter of early-20th century Boston Mayor John "Honey Fitz" Fitzgerald, Rose Fitzgerald was married in 1914 to Joseph P. Kennedy, the late multimillionaire and ambassador to England.

In a clan of strong personalities, Mrs Kennedy kept her family together through tragedy after tragedy. Four years after young Joe's war death, the family's second daughter, Kathleen, was killed in a plane crash in southern France.

More sorrow was to come. In 1963, President Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas. Less than five years later, her third son, Robert, was shot to death in a Los Angeles hotel as he campaigned for the Democratic presidential nomination.

"I have known the joys and sorrows of a full life. I can neither forget nor ever reconcile myself to the tragedies," she said in her autobiography.

President Kennedy once said his mother was "the glue that holds the family together."

Cruise: a bankable star

What you see is what you get

HOLLYWOOD, July 15, (UPI): Tom Cruise, 28, is a motion picture phenomenon, arguably the brightest young star on the screen. Since his discovery in "Top Gun" in 1981, Cruise has reeled off a string of nine successive hits without a single box-office failure.

Granted, he got his feet wet in some early pictures, "Loser" and "The Outsiders." But once he starred in "Risky Business" in 1983, he became Hollywood's hottest property.

He followed with "All the Right Moves," "Legend," "Top Gun," "The Colour of Money," "Cocktail," "Rain Man," "Born on the Fourth of July."

His most recent is "Days of Thunder," a picture he initiated, stars in and helped put together. He has worked with such Academy Award winners as Paul Newman, Dustin Hoffman, Robert Duvall and director Oliver Stone — and held his own with them all.

He was nominated for an Oscar himself last year for his performance as Ron Kovic in "Born on the Fourth of July."

Cruise has attained superstardom, an anointed status that comes with bankability. If a producer has Cruise and a script he can count on borrowing \$30 million to finance a movie.

On screen Cruise has a high likability quotient. He's not tall, but he's dark and handsome, and two out of three ain't bad.

Off-screen, Cruise is a case of what you see is what you get.

Born Thomas Cruise Mapother IV on July 3, 1962, in Syracuse, New York, the young star was married to actress Mimi Rogers, who divorced him last year. He is now single and apparently enjoying it.

The other day he sauntered into a Westwood hotel suite in a dark suit, white dress shirt and conservative blue necktie. His black shoes were polished. He looked a bit hung over. Some of his buddies had surprised him with a birthday party the night before.

Cruise is self-confident without being cocky. His intelligence is evident in the concentration he gives to questions and in his quick responses.

His boyishness pops to the surface when discussing his favourite forms of recreation: race

car driving and sky diving. He laughs and speaks with rapid enthusiasm on both subjects. He examines his career openly and subjectively.

"I think I progress as an actor with every movie I make," he said. "When I met Ron Kovic, I saw an overt person. His emotions were very immediate and apparent. Cole Trickle, my character in 'Days of Thunder,' is into mind games. He's like an onion you're peeling throughout the movie, getting to know him slowly, layer by layer. "I began thinking about how I would play Cole four years ago when I wrote an outline and got some writers to work on it. I wanted to do a story about the



Tom Cruise

people of NASCAR, not a race car movie.

"Cole is a guy who sits there and thinks. He hides things he doesn't want anyone else to know. He doesn't trust anybody."

Cruise rejects the idea that "Days of Thunder" is an extension of "Top Gun."

"This script is a lot better developed, and the character I play is far more complex," he said.

"I've become more demanding of what I do. I've gotten smarter

about script and character. I ask more from the project itself in terms of working with better people.

"It's like putting together a Super Bowl team every time you make a movie. You want the best players possible."

His enormous popularity allows Cruise to demand quality scripts, major co-stars and top flight personnel in all departments.

"It goes beyond money," he said. "I've been fortunate to work with fine actors and great directors. I want to work with Oliver (Stone) again and Barry (Levinson), who directed him in 'Rain Man'."

"I want to surround myself with people who know more than me. I want to be the student. Believe me, if I have all the answers, we're in serious trouble. I want to challenge people, not have them agreeing with me."

Cruise brought considerable expertise to the role of Cole Trickle. He raced for two years as a member of Paul Newman's team after they co-starred in "The Colour of Money."

"I'd never been a NASCAR racer," he said. "But I'd driven in competition. It helped me play the part with authority."

"Newman got me interested when he put me in a car on a short test track. My first big high came when Jim Fitzgerald (Newman's teammate) took me to road Atlanta and taught me things about driving and the track."

"That was four or five years ago. I really got huzzed. Then I drove 190 mph at Daytona and I could feel the G-force building up. I looked into a turn and told myself there's no way this car will hold this road. The walls were streaking past."

"The first time you hit that kind of speed, you're right on the edge. It's exhilarating and, for a lap, absolutely terrifying. For a moment my arms wanted to lock up. I had my foot to the floor and I was screaming to myself just to break through the fear."

"Once I broke through, I became relaxed and felt every inch of the car that moved, because on every lap the track changes."

"I've never known a higher high. I was maxed out. That day I decided to make a race picture."

"A couple of days later, I wrote the outline for 'Days of Thunder.'"

Show of hands supports Rushdie's death threat

LONDON, July 15, (AP): Hundreds of people attending a conference organised by a Muslim group raised their hands yesterday in support of Iran's death threats against author Salman Rushdie.

Kalim Siddiqui, leader of the Muslim Institute for Research and Planning, said the show of hands was a "beautiful moment."

Afterwards, Siddiqui told reporters: "In no way does the show of hands amount to me inciting them to murder."

The late Iranian leader, Ayatollah Khomeini, said in February 1989 that Rushdie deserved to die because he had blasphemed Islam in his book, "The Satanic Verses."

Rushdie remains in hiding under police guard.

In an address to the conference, Siddiqui spoke of a "lava of hatred" directed at British Muslims.

"It pours from the mouths of cabinet min-

sters, from judges... from parsons and policemen... Indeed, from every nook and cranny of this great country of ours," he said.

At least 500 people attended the conference, according to Press Association, Britain's domestic news agency.

Questioning Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's recent remarks that she had the greatest respect for Islam, he added: "Of course she has not; no one in Britain has. It would be suicidal for us to believe otherwise."

PEOPLE AND PLACES

NEW YORK: "Godfather of Soul" James Brown says critics of his release from prison to a community work programme in Aiken, South Carolina, should consider his accomplishments.

"When a man has a second-grade education and achieves any goal in the world... talk about the records I've set in music. Talk about those kinds of things," Brown said in an interview televised Thursday on ABC's Good Morning America.

"Talk about the fact I've outdone anybody you can name — Mozart, Beethoven, Bach, Strauss... Irving Berlin — he wrote 1,001 tunes. I wrote 5,500."

Brown, released from prison in April, served 15 months of a six-year sentence for aggravated assault on an upswing, it's flying. "I really needed the rest. I would prescribe to anyone all the rest you can get," (AP)

BOSTON: Dr Arnold Relman plans to retire next year after 14 years as editor of the New England Journal of Medicine, the world's leading chronicle of medical research.

Relman, 67, said Thursday he plans to write, teach and lecture after he retires next June. During Relman's tenure, the journal's circulation has grown from 165,000 to 225,000, the largest paid circulation of any medical journal in the world. It was founded in 1812. (AP)

ALBANY, New York: Bart Simpson, the television cartoon character whose image can be found on everything from coffee mugs to T-shirts, is now turning on stamps of the psychedelic drug LSD.

Bart's smiling face has appeared on blitter acid, LSD-laced stamps that are sold in sheets, police said.

Michael Borczyk, 21, of Albany, was charged Tuesday with possession of 261 doses of LSD-laced stamps. (AP)

Another batch of the stamps: 13



Underwater band

Jim St Julian (left) and Bert Breitung 'play' their mock musical instruments on Saturday during the Sixth Annual Underwater Music Festival in the Florida Keys. The event was co-ordinated by a local Keys radio station that broadcasted three hours of music to underwater speakers suspended above the coral reefs. More than 600 divers, along with a plethora of fish, listened to music and reef conservation messages. (Reuters wirephoto)

surfaced last week in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, police said.

"These stamps are very obviously aimed at young children. Kids love Bart Simpson," said Steve Dnistrian, a spokesman for Phoenix House, a New York Drug Rehabilitation Centre.

Cartoon characters such as Mickey Mouse and Goofy have been placed on blotter acid sheets since the 1960s, when the illegal drug became widely sold. (AP)

NEW YORK: New Yorkers soon will be wistfully recalling the 25-cent Staten Island ferry ride. This round-trip ride past the Statue of Liberty, referred to by many as the best bargain in town,

is being double to 50 cents Aug 1 in efforts to ease the city's budget crunch.

Despite loud protests from commuters Mayor David Dinkins signed the fare increase into law Thursday.

It is only the third price hike in the history of the ferry, which was taken over by the city from a railroad in 1905.

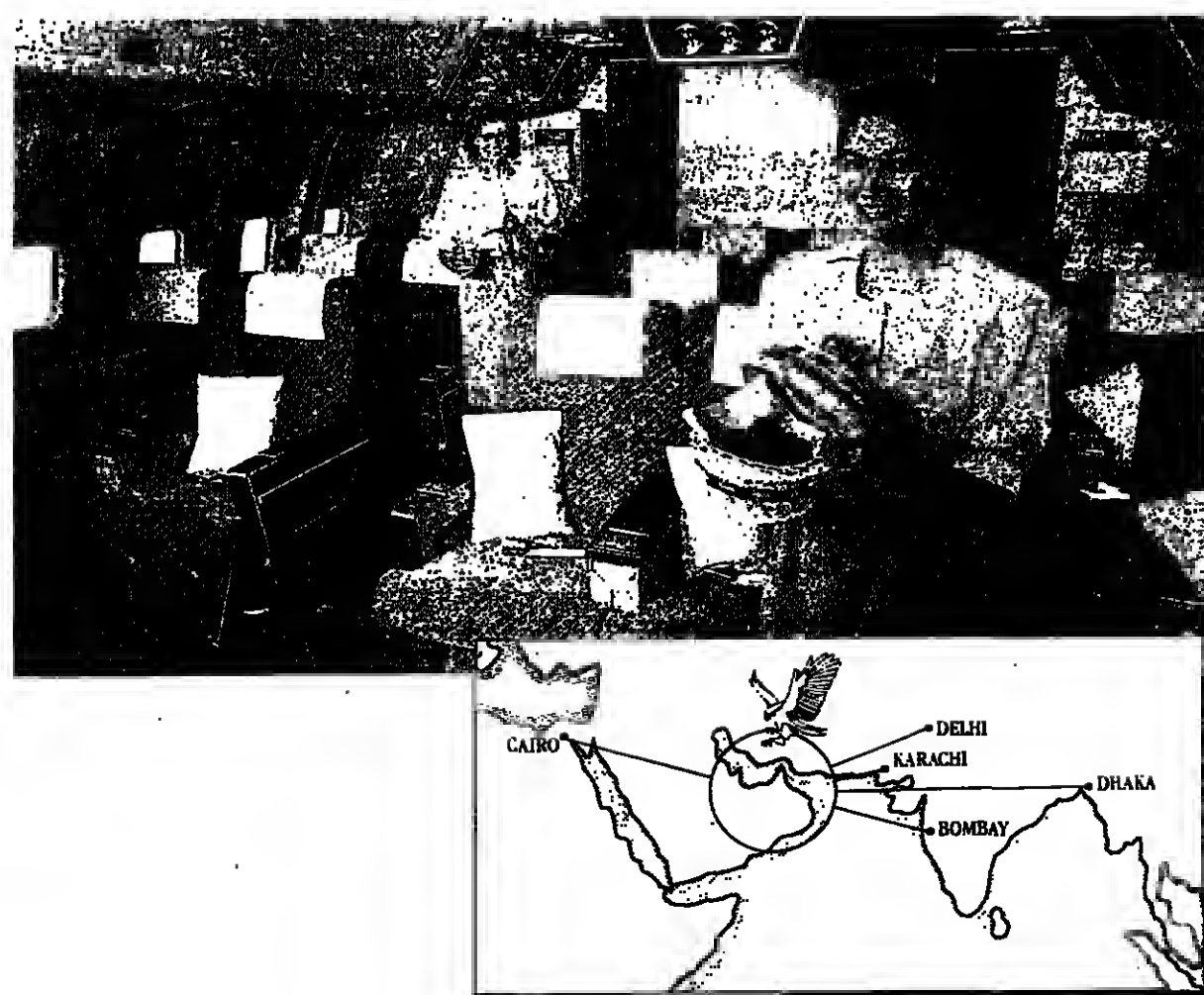
The ferry, which glides past but does not stop at the Statue of Liberty, carries 30,000 commuters daily between Staten Island and Manhattan is one of the cheapest tourist attractions in New York. The seven-mile (11-kilometre) trip across New York Harbour is called "a tourist mecca of great

delight," by the architects guide to New York and "America's biggest bargain," by Geoffrey Moorehouse in his book, Imperial New York. (AP)

BRADENTON, Florida: Fidel Castro has changed his name to Mike and is living in Bradenton working for a capitalist bank.

No, not that Fidel. With the stroke of a pen Wednesday, Circuit Judge Stephen Dakan changed the legal name of Bradenton's Fidel Castro — named after the Cuban President — to Michael Anthony Castro. "If you had a name like Fidel Castro, wouldn't you want to change it?" Castro said.

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A masked Mohawk warrior hits a golf ball during the occupation of a golf course in a standoff with Quebec police on Friday. The Mohawks blockaded a road leading to the golf course which they claim is on their land. The standoff is in its fourth day after a police officer was killed earlier in the week. (Reuter wirephoto)



A Mohawk warrior relaxes on an all-terrain vehicle as he keeps watch at a blockade on Saturday. (Reuter wirephoto)

7 blacks killed in SA violence

Mandela gets warm welcome in Maputo

JOHANNESBURG, July 15, (AP): Three explosions here and scattered violence in the eastern province of Natal have claimed seven black lives and left more than 20 injured this weekend, police said today.

The most serious attack was at a hotel bar frequented by blacks in the Johannesburg suburb of Rodepoort, where a grenade exploded late last night, killing one and injuring 21, police said.

A chef at the Rodepoort hotel, Violet Cheki, said she saw a white man open the door to the bar and roll an object into a crowd of about 100 people just before the blast.

In the same area, a hotel bar where all the patrons were white was bombed with commercial explosives before dawn yesterday, killing a black waiter.

Police said there also was an explosion yesterday at the suburban Johannesburg home of a right-wing white, Hans Binneman. No one was injured.

No one claimed responsibility for any of the weekend attacks.

However, white extremists have issued statements claiming responsibility for a recent spate of bombing in Johannesburg aimed at blacks and whites who oppose apartheid. Police have detained nine whites for questioning, but no one has been charged.

Pro-apartheid whites have vowed to resist President F.W. de Klerk's plans to dismantle the apartheid system of racial segregation and share power with the 30-million black majority.

Robert van Tonder, leader of the right-wing Boer State Party, said "all these blasts, unrest and violence are due to the government reforms."

The government "created a climate of suspicion, lack of confidence and anarchy," Van Tonder told the independent South African Press Association.

The African National Congress, the leading black opposition group, has accused the government of not taking firm action against right-wingers suspected of violence.

The ANC has waged a largely ineffective armed struggle against the government for almost 30 years. The ANC still supports the campaign, but major attacks have ceased in the past year.

In Natal, two policemen were among five blacks killed, according to the police unrest report, which covers incidents from the previous 24 hours.

One policeman was stabbed to death near Pietermaritzburg and the other was fatally shot in Umlazi outside Durban.

Two men were shot to death and the body of another man was found in three separate incidents, the report added.

Children greeted Nelson Mandela with flower garlands yesterday when he arrived in Maputo, Mozambique, at the last stop on his 14-nation, six-week tour of Africa, Europe and North America.

The deputy president of the African National Congress was greeted by President Joaquim Chissano and other government officials when he arrived from Kenya.

He had told a news conference in Nairobi, that South African President F.W. de Klerk agreed with him there was a need for a settlement soon.

"There is an understanding that the longer we delay with a settlement, the more damage will be done to the country," Mandela said.

Mandela said the ANC and the government would resume negotiations as soon as he returned home next week. Mandela is due to arrive in Johannesburg on Tuesday, the day before his 72nd birthday.

"Both parties involved are keen on a settlement," Mandela said.

Thousands of people waved small ANC flags along with the banner of the ruling Frelimo party at the Maputo airport.

Zambian students protest

University shut down

LUSAKA, Zambia, July 15, (AP): The government has shut down Zambia's main university in Lusaka two weeks after student-led protests left at least 26 people dead, it was reported today.

The Sunday Times of Zambia said university vice-chancellor Kasuku Mwauluka announced the closure. However, a university professor who requested anonymity said the shutdown was ordered by President Kenneth Kaunda's ruling party to avoid further rioting.

On June 25, students led protests against a 120 per cent increase in the price of the staple corn meal. The protests escalated into five days of widespread rioting and looting in the worst civil unrest since Zambia gained independence from British colonial rule in 1964.

Police and troops evicted students from the university on June 29 and education authorities said then the campus was being closed temporarily.

Mohawk unrest spotlights discontent

Mohawks, police still at standoff

Indians agree to lift blockade

TORONTO, July 15, (AP): The outbreak of violence between Mohawk Indians and police over a white man's golf course is rooted in a dispute more than two centuries old and is symptomatic of rising native disgruntlement across Canada.

"If you continue to push people to a limit and the federal government continues to ignore their issues, yes they will retaliate," said Matthew Coon-Come, grand chief of the James Bay Cree Indians.

For many Indians on Canadian reserves, life is a continuous struggle against poverty, alcoholism, poor health services, non-existent plumbing, primitive sewage disposal and poor drinking water. Death by injury or poisoning is quadruple the rate for the rest of Canada and life expectancy is nine years less than that of a white Canadian.

Many Indians on reserves want self-government, with the land and resources to give them a viable economy and an opportunity to improve their living conditions.

"The underlying issue (in the Mohawk dispute) is to try to settle land claims," Coon-Come said. His Cree Indians are fighting to stop further hydroelectric development in their vast northern Quebec homeland. "They have been pushed back to the wall."

Shooting broke out Wednesday when police moved in to remove a roadblock set up by Mohawks at Oka, about 20 miles (32 kilometres) west of Montreal. A police officer was shot to death in the confrontation, but it is still unclear if he was shot by Indians or a fellow police officer.

The Mohawks had set up the roadblock to stop the municipality of Oka from expanding a golf course to include land the Indians claim.

Robert Mainville, a lawyer whose firm represents Indian bands across Canada, blamed inaction by the federal government for the violence.

"You have this little municipality dialoguing with natives instead of the federal government, and some policeman has to

get killed over a nine-hole golf course," Mainville said.

"What is happening in Oka is only symptomatic," he said.

"There is no doubt in my mind that the native population has undergone a major shift in philosophy and a major shift in approach. Violence is going to be seen and more as an alternative, particularly among young people."

"There is a very, very deep sense of frustration among the young Indians of Canada. Basically, they feel they are being

short-changed. They want action and they are not seeing any on the part of the federal government."

There are about 450,000 registered Indians in Canada and 33,000 Eskimos. Their 2,234 reserves cover 6.4 million acres (2.6 million hectares).

Highways leading to the bridge were hunkered Wednesday by Mohawks of the Kahnawake Reserve following an armed clash between provincial police and Mohawks manning barricades on the reservation near Oka.

Since the clash, Mohawks and police have been locked in a tense standoff in Oka. The Indians have refused to take down their barricades.

Ciacia said the talks yesterday resulted in the "beginnings of proposals" to end the Oka confrontation. He refused to elaborate.

The confrontation has left one police officer dead after Wednesday's shootout with Mohawks manning barricades in Oka, 20 miles (32 kilometres) west of Montreal. It is unclear if the officer was shot by Mohawks or fellow police.

Militant role for Contras denied

MANAGUA, July 15, (UPI): A former Contra rebel commander denied yesterday that the rebels, who disbanded last month, are assuming a militant right-wing role in Nicaragua or were active in recent strike violence.

Oscar Sovalbarro, known during the nine-year Contra war as Commander Ruben, said the former rebels are busy trying to start developing the land the government gave them for resettlement.

Each member of the Contras is now integrated into civilian life," Sovalbarro told United Press International in an interview. "As civilians, like any Nicaraguan, they can move about as they wish."

Several former Contras, some of them armed, joined other supporters of the ruling National Opposition Union, or UNO, in violent clashes earlier in the week with Sandinista strikers. Violence during the 10-day strike left six dead and more than 150 wounded.

Sovalbarro said he had no knowledge that former Contras took part in the violence, adding that any participation was not approved by the Contra leadership.

The appearance of Contras during the strike violence and the simultaneous creation of a right-wing UNO faction led by Vice President Virgilio Godoy led Sandinista leaders to accuse the groups of forming a joint militant wing.

Former Sandinista President Daniel Ortega charged Thursday that right-wing death squads are popping up and were responsible for recent assassinations of Sandinista militants.

Peru rebels blow up car, 4 injured

AYACUCHO, July 15, (AP): Maoist guerrillas yesterday afternoon detonated a car bomb on a main road in Ayacucho's main square, wounding four people, police said.

The explosion occurred at 1:30 pm (1830 GMT) and blew out windows at a government office and other nearby buildings and homes.

Police said Shining Path guerrillas rigged the bomb, using a stolen pickup truck and 44 pounds (20 kilograms) of dynamite.

Three men and one woman were injured by the blast. Police said it was the first day-time car bomb set off in Ayacucho by the guerrillas, and could have wounded many more people.

Car bomb kills one

Escobar search continues

BOGOTA, Colombia, July 15, (AP): A car bomb exploded late yesterday in front of police headquarters in the cocaine-trafficking centre of Medellin, killing one civilian and wounding 14, police said.

Meanwhile, police reported seizing more than 2 tons of cocaine, packaged and ready to be sent to the United States. They said it was hidden in an underground storage locker on a farm in northern Colombia.

In the northwestern city of Medellin, the car

hom with more than 80 pounds (36 kilograms) of dynamite exploded near the police headquarters, causing damage to nearby shops and a school, said the city's police chief, Col Jorge Ferrero.

In a live radio interview, Ferrero said a bystander died at a local hospital after being wounded in the bombing. Three of those wounded were in critical condition at the hospital, he said. He said there were no police casualties.

Police were searching for a suspect who activated the bomb and fled, he said.

The bombing was the fifth this year in Medellin. On Friday, Medellin police deactivated a car bomb packed with about 450 pounds (200 kilograms) of dynamite.

Since Friday, police reported seizing more than 3,000 pounds (1,360 kilograms) of dynamite that the Medellin drug cartel was reportedly planning to use for car bombings.

Authorities blame the Medellin cocaine cartel for car bombings and other terrorist attacks that have killed hundreds of people in the last 11 months. The violence followed a government crackdown on the cocaine trade.

A police statement, read by the RCN radio network, said the 4,288 pounds (1,915 kilograms) of cocaine was seized Friday in a raid on a farm near Cauca, about 250 miles (400 kilometres) north of Bogota.

Colombian authorities have found and destroyed more than 63,000 pounds (28,540 kilograms) of cocaine this year.

The latest seizure occurred as about 2,000 police officers and army soldiers continued to search in the central Magdalena river region for Pablo Escobar, the reputed leader of the Medellin cartel.

Gunmen allegedly working for the cartel continued their attacks against police in Medellin, killing two more policemen late Friday. Three of the assailants were killed when police returned fire, a police communiqué said.

Boesak given time to rethink

JOHANNESBURG, July 15, (UPI): President of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches and staunch anti-apartheid cleric Allan Boesak today received three weeks' leave from his church to reconsider his resignation from the ministry following allegations of an affair.

The council of his devoted Bellville South congregation announced that while it is "gravely aware of the seriousness of the issues" and is "in no way prepared to conceal or cover up any aspects thereof," it is giving Boesak three weeks to "reconsider" his decision.

The congregation will "most definitely" accept his return, council chairman Johan Retief told reporters later, noting Boesak is "much loved" and "a symbol of the fight against apartheid."

The spiritual leader of 50 million Christians worldwide issued a statement through his lawyer thanking the Cape Town congregation and promising to give "serious consideration" to the interests of the church, his family and his own position.

The lawyer, Esna Mvusa, refused to confirm or deny reports Boesak and his alleged lover, Elma Botha, temporarily left South Africa at the weekend for an overseas destination, possibly London or Atlanta, Georgia, where Boesak reportedly owns a home.

His family refused to answer queries.

Boesak, 45, last Sunday tearfully told his congregation he could no longer lead them, was stepping down as their minister, and would consider his future in the church.

In 1985 church authorities temporarily suspended him from his local duties after he admitted to a "unique relationship" with another woman.

Church leaders say Boesak may now have to resign his position at the head of the world's 150-odd reformed churches, which he has led since 1982, even if he returns to his ministry. The cleric's position as moderator of South Africa's Dutch Reformed Mission church is also threatened.

Jesuit links search to priests' murder in El Salvador

SAN SALVADOR, July 15, (UPI): A Roman Catholic church official said yesterday there was a direct link between a search for leftist rebels last November at a Jesuit University and the murder three days later of six priests who lived and worked at the school.

The search for rebels was ordered at the height of a guerrilla offensive last November. The government said reports had been received that rebels of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front might be on the

university campus, and President Alfredo Cristiani approved a search for them.

All intellectuals whose teachings favoured the poor were considered rebel sympathisers, so it was believed the priests might be harbouring rebels or have knowledge of them.

The military "centred (the search for rebels) on the priests' residence," Jose Maria Tojira, director of the Jesuit order in Central America, said yesterday.

"We believe the search and the murders are

related, because the same soldiers that carried out the search did the killing. For me it was not a search, but a reconnaissance," Tojira told reporters.

Cristiani denied Thursday that there was any link between the Nov 13 search and the murder three days later of the six priests, their housekeeper and the housekeeper's teenage daughter.

"I want to be very clear," Cristiani said. "One thing is different from the other."



Funeral

Mourners attend the funeral of three township residents who were killed in clashes with riot police last week. Over 1,000 people attended the funeral at the small village of Robertson about 200 km (160 miles) from Cape Town on Saturday. (Reuter wirephoto)

Fighting goes on in suburbs

Monrovia calm

MONROVIA, Liberia, July 15, (UPI): The besieged Liberian capital of Monrovia was calm yesterday, but travellers said there was more fighting in a suburb northeast of the city.

They said rocket-propelled grenades had been used by both sides in the war to flatten houses in the residential suburb of Paynesville, about 8 miles (13 km) from the capital. Charles Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia has encircled the city in a bid to oust President Samuel Doe.

Some of the attacks were by the rebels, but the bulk were by troops loyal to Doe, who is trying to push back the rebels who have advanced from the far northeast corner of the country to the capital in six months.

Diplomats said there had been no major gains by either side and the military situation appeared to be static.

The besieged Atlantic coast capital, which is virtually cut off from the outside world by land, sea and air, was again without power and main water supplies yesterday. Electricity generators had been shut off for a week but worked from Friday evening through Saturday morning.

There was no explanation for the renewed outage, but the generator was powered by diesel fuel, which is in short supply.

Several aid groups, including the International Committee of the Red Cross, the French

Medecins Sans Frontieres and Catholic Relief Services, have begun distributing rice to residents who have been eating roots and leaves due to severe shortages.

The rice had been stored since June in warehouses where it was deposited by the United Nations. The United Nations staff was pulled out following an attack on the refugees housed in the UN compound.

One of the UN warehouses was looted by government troops, but another was opened to the relief agencies, which were provided protection by the government to assure the rice went to needy residents.

Checkpoints, which have sprouted throughout the city as the government's security position has deteriorated, were more relaxed yesterday, with soldiers waving some travellers through without inspection.

Diplomatic sources said there were persistent reports of fighting between rival groups of rebels and suggested that this may have been one reason for the delay in the onslaught on Monrovia.

Taylor acknowledged a split as long ago as last May, saying one of the rebel leaders, Prince Johnson, had summarily executed rebel commanders without trial. The latest conflict in the rebel ranks appears to have involved Johnson's troops near Careyburg, 20 miles (30 km) north of Monrovia.

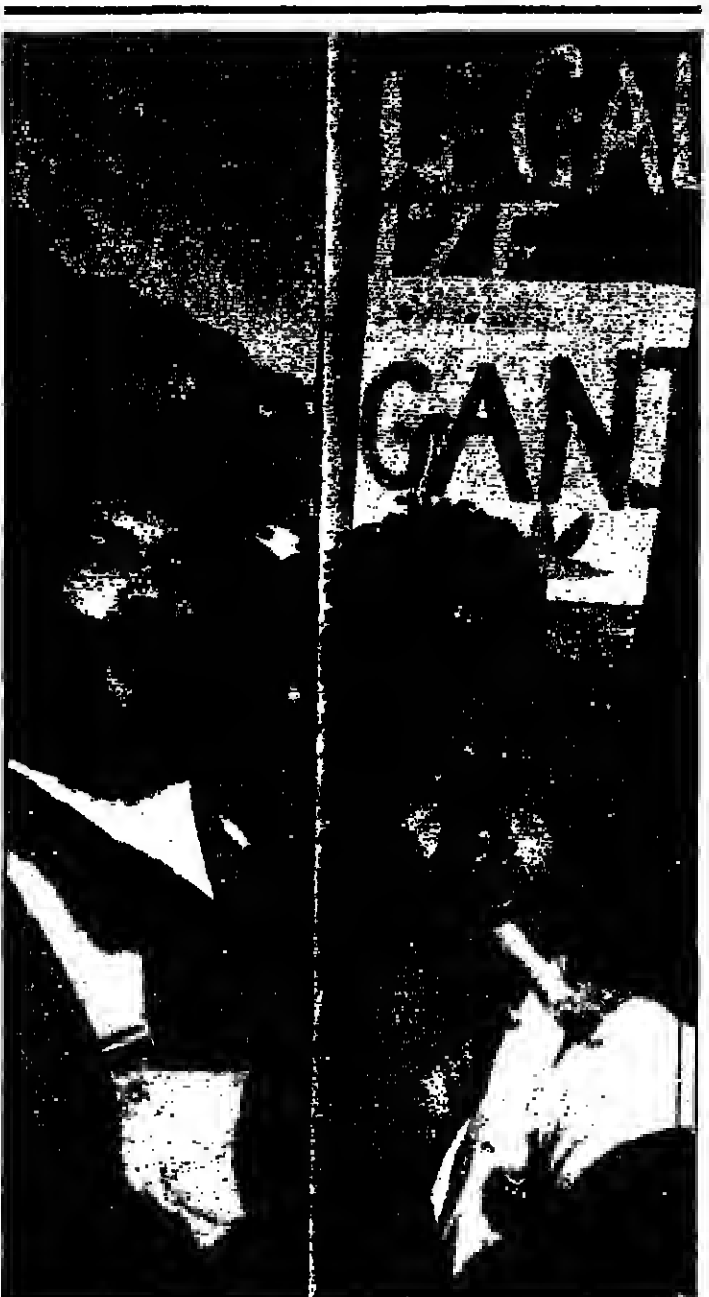
YF death rate rises

GENEVA, July 15, (Kuna): In 1988, as in 1987 and 1986, Africa and South America reported large numbers of yellow fever (YF) cases (2,059 cases, 1,709 deaths, case fatality rate — CFR — 83 per cent), according to the Geneva-based World Health Organisation (WHO).

In the latest edition of the 'Weekly Epidemiological Record', WHO noted that this was highlighted by a major outbreak in Nigeria, which probably represented the continuation of an epidemic starting in 1986.

Additionally, in 1988, there was an increase in the number of sporadic cases in the epidemic zones in South America, with the majority reported in Peru.

The 3-year period 1986-1988 represented an extraordinarily active period of YF. The worldwide total of 5,395 cases and 3,172 deaths (CFR 58.8 per cent) represents the greatest amount of YF activity reported to WHO for any 3-year period since reporting began in 1948.



Ganja protest

About three hundred Rastafarians marched through central Cape Town on Saturday in a protest calling for the legalisation of marijuana as well as the end to civil conflict in Natal province. The Rastafarians carried placards calling for the legalisation of ganja (marijuana) and smoked large marijuana joints as they marched to the local courthouse to hand in a memorandum with their demands. (Reuter wirephoto)

Soviet leader to visit Nato HQ

MOSCOW, July 15, (AP): President Mikhail Gorbachev has accepted an invitation to address Nato leaders at the alliance's headquarters in Brussels. Nato Secretary-General Manfred Woerner said yesterday.

Gorbachev yesterday met with Woerner, the organisation's highest-ranking official and the first to visit the Kremlin.

Woerner said at a news conference afterwards that they did not discuss the military alliance of a united Germany, but said he was confident a solution could be found.

East Germany has been a cornerstone of the Warsaw Pact alliance, and the Soviet Union has opposed membership of a unified Germany within Nato.

New era

A date for Gorbachev's Nato visit has not been fixed.

Last week's Nato summit was a major subject during Woerner's talks with Gorbachev and Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

Alliance leaders there agreed on a new strategy and proposed a non-aggression declaration to the Warsaw Pact.

"Our talks today were dominated by the sense that we stand at the opening of a new era," Woerner told reporters. "We had the sense that the cold war is over, and that historic opportunities lie before us."

"We have broken through the ice of suspicion, and we are coming close together."

Partners

"There is a clear coincidence in the approach set out by the alliance in London and the views of the Soviet leadership. The hand of friendship has been extended on both sides and there is agreement on building a new relationship," Woerner told reporters.

Woerner said he told Gorbachev and Shevardnadze that Nato sought co-operation with the Soviet Union and that "our alliance does not look upon you as an adversary but a future partner."

But Woerner, West German defence minister from 1982 until his appointment to the top Nato job in 1988, said the issue of approaching German unity, a central factor in reshaping alliance strategy, was not discussed.

Confident

"Since my Soviet partners didn't raise the issues, I didn't raise it. But I would not draw any conclusion from that at this very moment. The one which I have drawn is that I am confident we will find a solution," he said.

Woerner said he could understand the fears of the Soviet Union about a united Germany given the horrifying experience of World War II, but that Nato was trying to create structures to prevent a repeat of the past.

"A membership of a united Germany in our alliance would increase stability and would not be a threat of any kind to the Soviet Union," Woerner said.

The questions of Germany's military and political obligations are being worked out within the framework of "two-plus-four" talks among the two Germanies and the United States, France, Great Britain and the Soviet Union.

Hurdles

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl has stated that he would like the talks to be wrapped up in time for all-German elections in December.

Other hurdles remain, including the size of the future German Army. Woerner said he did not discuss the issue with Shevardnadze or Gorbachev.

He said he would ask the supreme allied commander of Europe and the chairman of Nato's military committee to visit the Soviet Union soon to keep expanding contacts between military leaders.

Woerner is scheduled to meet Monday with Soviet Chief of Staff Gen. Mikhail Moiseyev.

Change

Woerner expressed amazement at his unprecedented visit to the Soviet Union.

"When I became secretary-general of Nato two years ago, I began talking about the need to prepare for a change," he said.

Kohl, Gorbachev discuss outline of future treaty

Chancellor honoured, taken to visit Stavropol

MOSCOW, July 15, (AP): President Mikhail Gorbachev and West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl said today they made major progress on a treaty governing relations between the Soviet Union and a united Germany.

"We have come quite close on very big questions," Gorbachev told reporters following his first round of talks with Kohl.

The West German leader said both he and Gorbachev were aware of "the historic hour" at hand, but were "looking forward without forgetting history."

Kohl arrived in Moscow late yesterday on a two-day visit seeking to remove Soviet obstacles to the unification of the two German states. It is Kohl's second trip to Moscow this year.

Neither leader revealed what progress had been made on the treaty, which would replace the Moscow treaty, a non-aggression pact ratified by the West German and Soviet parliaments in 1972. The pact has formed the basis of relations.

The treaty would cover security as well as economic, financial and cultural co-operation and would bind both sides to a mutual renunciation of force.

Fighting between Nazi Germany and the Red Army in World War II cost at least 20 million Soviet lives. Many Soviet families still bear the scars of the war.

For decades, the threat of German rearmament was one of the favourite subjects of Soviet propaganda. War movies are still

popular on Soviet television — this weekend prime-time Soviet Television featured two films on the Nazi SS Forces.

Gorbachev extended a highly personal gesture to Kohl by taking the West German leader today to his native region of Stavropol in southern Russia, some 1,620 kilometres (1,000 miles) south of Moscow.

Issues facing the two leaders include the size of the future all-German army and the military allegiance of a united Germany.

Moscow stands to lose its ally East Germany, the most important member of the Kremlin-led Warsaw Pact, once the two Germanies merge sometime after all-German elections in December.

The Soviet Union has objected to proposals that a united Germany be a Nato member.

However, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze has indicated there is room for compromise.

Nato Secretary General Manfred Woerner, Kohl's defence minister from 1982-1988, is also visiting the Soviet Union.

He said at a news conference yesterday he understood Soviet concerns given the horrors of World War II, but that he believed the inclusion of a united Germany in Nato would contribute to stability in Europe.

The Soviets have argued that their troops should stay in what is now East German territory. The West German government has pledged \$780 million for the upkeep of Soviet

soldiers in the second half of this year.

The future size of an all-German army was also discussed at the first set of today's talks between Gorbachev and Kohl, but no details were available. The Soviets have suggested that the future German force should number less than 400,000 men.

Kohl told reporters he was optimistic that the foreign and security aspects of German unity could be solved this year.

Kohl is accompanied by Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher and Finance Minister Theo Waigel.

The West German government has backed a \$3.1 billion loan to support the Kremlin's efforts to lead the Soviet Union's centralised economy to a market-oriented system.

But Western leaders rejected a proposal strongly backed by West Germany and France for a \$15 billion aid plan to shore up the Soviet economy and demonstrate suffering from a drop in imports from East Germany, its largest trading partner in the East bloc. Trade relations are likely to deteriorate further when Moscow will be forced to conduct all economic activity with Germany in hard currency.

In Bonn, West German government spokesman Hans Klein said that Kohl "values the invitation to Stavropol as a special personal gesture," and Soviet news media stressed that no foreign visitor had been accorded the honour.



Soviet President Gorbachev (right) and West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl at the start of their talks in Moscow. (Reuters wirephoto)

Exodus to freedom

Albanians flash V for victory

MARSEILLE, July 15, (AP): The last of five ferries carrying thousands of disenchanted Albanians out of their communist homeland was to dock in this port city today — one day after France celebrated its own independence.

Another 76 Albanians waved their arms in joy and flashed the 'V' for victory signal as they arrived early today in Ankara, Turkey, on a Turkish government-sponsored flight from the Albanian capital Tirana.

They said they wanted to live in a free country and have a better life.

"We want to live in a free society. We want to have our political and legal rights," said Arben Shanja, a physics teacher from Shkoder.

The 544 Albanian refugees coming to France were to disembark and take trains to centres that will orient them to life in the West, the government said.



An Albanian refugee is carrying his two daughters as he leaves a special train shortly after the arrival in Hamburg, West Germany. (Reuters wirephoto)



An 11-year-old Albanian boy eats his first meal with another Albanian in Warsaw among the 52 refugees arriving in Poland en route to the West. (Reuters wirephoto)

At three centres in greater Paris and one in southwest France they will receive physical examinations, learn French and be taught how to use French social services.

Their reception, originally planned yesterday when France celebrated its independence with Bastille Day, was postponed because a 21-year-old pregnant woman had to be taken off the ferry and sent to an Italian hospital, French officials on the ferry said.

The woman's name and conditions were not immediately available.

But the trip aboard the chartered Yugoslav ferry Orient Star was not without its moving and upbeat moments.

An Albanian couple was married and their expatriate shipmates joined in singing a traditional Albanian wedding song.

The refugees also were moved into huts of applause as a member of the French delegation explained to them the meaning of Bastille Day and told them of the freedoms they will enjoy living in France.

Meanwhile, the other 4,600 Albanians that landed in Brindisi, Italy on Friday made their way to other European countries.

The first of more than 3,000 Albanians bound for West Germany on three chartered trains arrived in Heidelberg.

The refugees, mostly young men and a few women and children, looked happy but exhausted after the 26-hour trip. They waved their hands in victory.

"We are leaving our country because we don't want the communists," said Enkeo Halili, a 24-year-old mechanic as he stepped from the train. "We are young ... we are poor. We've never even seen a discotheque."

In Basel, Switzerland, the refugees were sent on smaller trains to 14 different West German cities.

It was still unclear how many wanted to stay in West Germany and how many wished eventually to go to third countries. Many have said they hope to go to the United States.

Other refugees brought from Albania in the boatlift chose to remain in Italy.

Also yesterday, the 56 Albanians sheltered in the Polish embassy in Tirana were flown to Warsaw. Another 39 who sought refuge in the Hungarian embassy were flown to Budapest and on the same plane were five who took refuge at the Bulgarian embassy. They travelled on to the Bulgarian capital of Sofia.

long as Soviet troops are stationed there.

"People who don't want to accept facts will always find reasons to say it's not possible," De Maiziere told the magazine.

West Germany has also said the capital decision can only be made by a common parliament, which would not be seated until after joint elections.

Proponents of leaving the capital in Bonn say the small town on the Rhine has symbolized 40 years of German democratic development and that Berlin's history is tinged by its imperialistic past and lies to Hitler's third reich.

Power shifts in Moscow

Party's executive politburo reshuffled

MOSCOW, July 15, (AP): Power over the largest nation on earth shifted quietly this weekend as Mikhail Gorbachev and his supporters freed the government leadership from the command structure of the Communist Party.

Gorbachev's forces yesterday removed top government leaders in a reshuffling of the party's executive politburo, enabling them to exercise authority as national leaders.

For the first time since the early years of communist rule, government leaders without formal ties to the party's governing body are free to rule this vast society.

Removed from the politburo were Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov, who remains in charge of the economy; Dmitri T. Yazov, who stays on as defence minister; Vladimir A. Kryuchkov, who is still KGB chief; and Eduard A. Shevardnadze who remains foreign minister.

The change was accomplished when Gorbachev faced down a challenge by con-

servatives at the 28th Communist Party Congress last week and won over the delegates. In addition to re-electing him general secretary of the party, the delegates on Friday elected a new Central Committee. The committee yesterday chose Communist Party leaders of the 15 republics, moderate reformers and political unknowns to run the 24-member politburo.

The turnover also removed such hard-line Gorbachev critics as Yegor Ligachev from the Central Committee as well as from the politburo.

Gorbachev and his newly elected deputy, Vladimir Ivashko, were the only holdovers from the previous 12-member politburo.

Government ministers now appear to be the most powerful men in the Soviet Union next to Gorbachev.

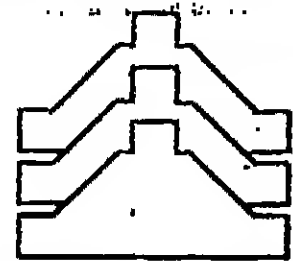
Ryzhkov, Kryuchkov and Yazov remain members of the 412-member Central Committee. Shevardnadze, however, does not. Gorbachev, who as president and general

secretary heads both the Soviet government and the Communist Party, has tried to reshape the party to concern itself with broad policy goals rather than the country's day-to-day affairs.

Before Gorbachev began his reforms, any high government position was secondary to the official's standing in the Communist Party.

"The new composition of the politburo underscores that the party fully breaks with the former practice when it was organically built into the command and administrative system, and was on the top of the hierarchy," said Ivan Frolov, the editor of the party newspaper Pravda and a new politburo member.

Shevardnadze and Gorbachev adviser Alexander N. Yakovlev, a member of Gorbachev's presidential council, said during the congress that they did not see the need to remain on the politburo.



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Treaty must name Berlin as Germany's future capital: Maiziere

MUNICH, July 15, (AP): East German Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere has made a treaty on the formal merger of the two Germanys contingent on Berlin being named the capital, a magazine reported today.

The argument over which city should be the united Germany's seat of government — the current West German capital of Bonn or Berlin, Germany's capital until the end of World War II — has become one of the most contentious issues to be resolved before unification.

The two Germanys merged their economies on July 1, under a treaty outlining economic, monetary

and social union. Officials from both countries are now trying to iron out legal and constitutional differences in a second treaty so that formal unification can be completed by December. All-German elections have been proposed for Dec 2.

"This important point, the establishment of Berlin as Germany's future capital, must be settled before the treaty can be signed," De Maiziere was quoted as saying in the weekly Munich-based magazine Bunte.

The East German leader also criticised West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's position that Berlin cannot be the capital of a united Germany as

Making the most of their wait to be resettled abroad

Vietnamese violinists delighting HK with strains of Mozart

HONG KONG, July 15, (AP): After fleeing the suffocating world of Hanoi to pursue their love of music, two young Vietnamese violinists are delighting Hong Kong with the strains of Mozart.

The two, brother and sister, are making the most of their wait for a Western country to take them.

Sixteen months ago, 26-year-old Nguyen Sam Thi and 19-year-old Nguyen Khac Uyen made a harrowing sea journey to this British colony to escape their communist homeland. Their worries in early July were not about survival but similarly palpable when they gave their first local public recital.

"I don't think my performance was

great. I was a bit nervous," Thi said after playing a Mozart violin sonata before an appreciative lunchtime audience at the Academy for Performing Arts, which trains local talent in music, drama and dance.

Reviews from the arts circle were more positive.

"They've got good technical background and good music instincts," said academy director John Hosier, who believes the Vietnamese would be accepted by any top-notch conservatory. Classical music critic Clive Simpson described the pair's performance as "skillful."

Less than two weeks after their recital,

the youths received the best news possible. The government classified them as refugees who will be able to resettle abroad. Most of the more than 60,000 boat people in Hong Kong camps will be classified as illegal immigrants and face repatriation to their communist homeland.

"We are so happy to have acquired the refugee status. It is a major step for us," Thi said during a recent interview. "We do seem to have a brighter future now after all those months of uncertainties."

Added Uyen, "All along I keep playing my violin, and I believe music would lead me somewhere. The Nguyens, who spoke in English,

said it was their love for music and repeated attempts by Vietnamese authorities to interfere in their artistic development that forced them to flee.

Both received early musical training. Thi started at age 9 and Uyen at 5. Their father, who they said was the chief violinist with the Vietnamese symphony orchestra, was their first instructor and introduced them to many of the Western masters, including Mozart, Beethoven, Brahms and Bach.

Thi and Uyen then took lessons at the Hanoi Conservatory. Thi said she was hand-picked by a team of Soviet music experts in 1981 and sent to Moscow for

music studies before being suddenly summoned back in 1986 with no explanation.

Uyen said the Vietnamese authorities mixed numerous offers for him to study in Moscow and rejected an invitation for him to perform in Poland.

Eventually, they said, their parents decided the children had to escape Vietnam if they were to pursue a career in Western classical music, which did not have a market in Vietnam.

Having paid an agent gold worth more than \$1,000 Thi, Uyen and their mother boarded a 63-foot (19-metre) fishing junk that set sail from the northern Vietnamese port of Bai Chay in March 1989 with 29 people aboard. The father stayed behind

and has since been fired because of the escape, his children said.

The group made occasional stops along the Chinese coast to take on food supplies and to make repairs. After about 20 days, the boat reached Hong Kong's shores.

"It may seem silly to other people that I took along my violin during the dangerous journey to Hong Kong, but the instrument is my most valuable property," Uyen recalled.

Thi stressed that they intended to continue practicing as soon as they reached the territory. "Music has become part of us. Wherever we go, whatever situation we're in, we continue to play."

Police shoot military officers in drug bust

'Manila rebels to free captives next week'

MANILA, Philippines, July 15, (AP): Security officials shot and killed two senior military officers and seized \$10 million worth of heroin in a bizarre drug bust that some soldiers claim was a set-up.

The operation began late Tuesday when police and National Bureau of Investigation agents closed in on what they said was a major heroin sale in the parking lot of a commercial centre in suburban Makati.

Gunfire broke out and three of the "dealers" were slain, according to the Bureau of Investigation. Police also arrested a woman from a prominent family who was allegedly involved in the drug ring.

It should have been a resounding victory in the government's fledgling war on drugs but it quickly turned into a major scandal.

The three dead "drug dealers" turned out to be Col. Rolando de Guzman, deputy chief of the military's northern Luzon command; his intelligence chief Maj. Franco Calanog and a military informant.

Bureau of Investigation director Alfredo Lim, the former Manila police chief, said the three were trying to sell \$10 million worth of heroin to an American, who escaped. He showed reporters what he said was the heroin seized.

Lim is considered one of President Corason Aquino's closest allies and has been mentioned as a leading candidate to head a planned civilian national police force. The integrated national police is now part of the armed forces.

De Guzman's colleagues in the military were outraged by the killings. They claimed the three were shot at close range, raising doubts about the police version of a "shootout."

"Based on the evidence so far gathered, it was clear that what happened ... was cold-blooded murder," said Brig. Gen. Virgilio David, chief of the military's narcotics command. "The only question now is why they were killed."

Angry soldiers from De Guzman's command threatened reprisals.

"I am having trouble controlling them," said Brig. Gen. Guernardo Yap, chief of the northern Luzon command. "I have 40,000 men here and over the incident. My men are very angry."

Faced with a crisis in the ranks, Army Chief of Staff Gen. Renato de Villa ordered the arrest of the police and Bureau of Investigation agents pending an investigation.

De Villa issued the arrest order while several of the policemen were at the presidential palace receiving decorations from Aquino for past accomplishments.

De Villa's support is crucial for Aquino in preventing future coup attempts. There have been six unsuccessful attempts to overthrow Aquino since she took power in 1986.

Aquino has appointed a presidential commission to investigate the shootings. Yesterday, Justice Secretary Franklin Drilon said Lim and De Villa had agreed to keep quiet until the investigation is completed.

The chief negotiator for the release of a kidnapped US Peace Corps volunteer and a Japanese technician said today he expects communist guerrillas to free both captives next week.

"Maybe Sunday or next week," retired Roman Catholic Bishop Antonio Fortich said when asked when he expects rebels to free Timothy Swanson, 26, of Cheyenne, Wyoming, and Fumio Mizuno, 36, of Japan.

"The release is dependent on how fast we move," Fortich said. "As far as I am concerned, it is over. It's a breakthrough."

Fortich was referring to a letter he received yesterday from the rebels outlining arrangements for the release of the kidnapped victims. In the letter, delivered by a courier, communist New Peoples Army guerrillas said they would release the foreigners to representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Chinese dissident singer Back to the studio

TAIPEI, July 15, (AP): After being kicked out of China for his blistering attacks on the Beijing leadership, Taiwan folk singer Hou Dejian wants to head back to the recording studio away from the political limelight.

"I used to be an amateur dissident to China. Now I want to resume my career as a professional musician," Hou, 33, said in a recent interview, just weeks after Chinese authorities placed him on a fishing boat bound for this offshore island.

His deportation in June ended an eight-year sojourn in China that began seven years earlier with his defection from Taiwan, the seat of the Nationalist Chinese government that rivals the Chinese communists. He left behind a wife, a two-year-old son and irate nationalist officials.

Hou led a comfortable, generally a political life of celebrity in China after the defection, evidenced by the maroon Mercedes Benz sedan he drove through the impoverished streets in Beijing. But all that changed in 1989, when he went on a fast in Tiananmen Square in support of the pro-democracy movement.

When troops were called in to crush the massive pro-democracy protest, Hou negotiated an evacuation of students from the square and then fled himself to the safety of the Australian embassy. He emerged two months later and became one of the few Chinese willing to condemn the government openly.

He then disappeared May 31, just before he was to issue an open letter calling for the release of political prisoners. He surfaced in Taiwan three weeks later, saying Chinese authorities forced him to choose deportation or jail.

The lean, bespectacled songwriter is now free on bail while prosecutors investigate whether he entered Taiwan illegally. His case is expected to be treated leniently because of his role in the pro-democracy movement.

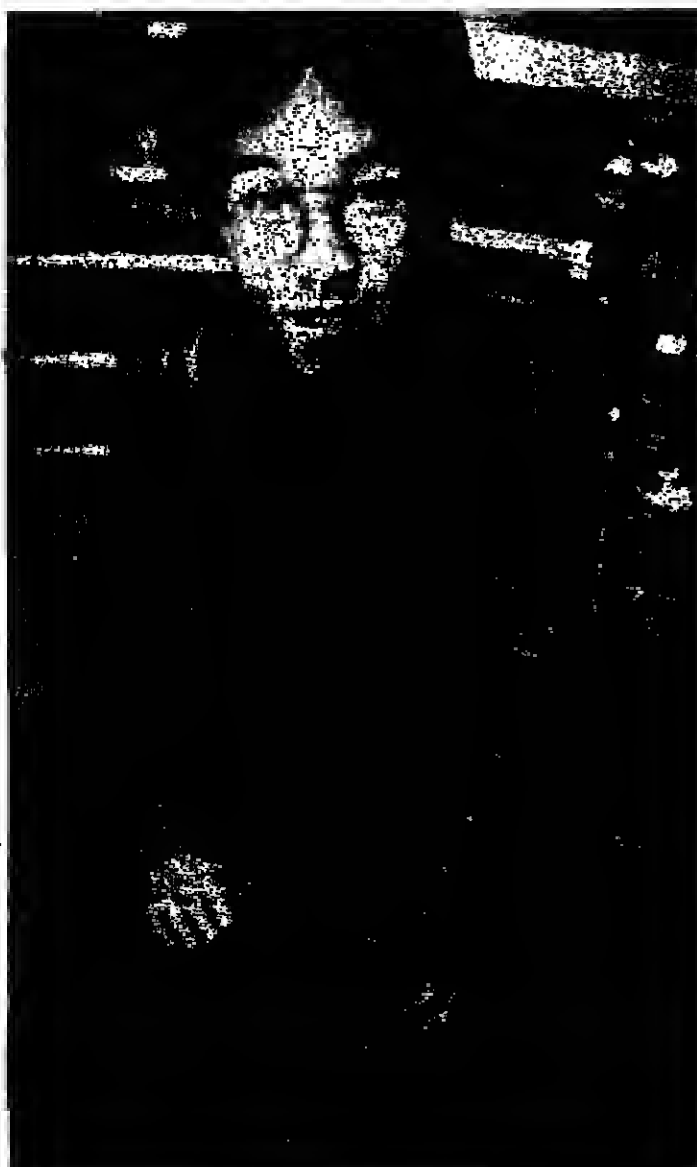
The ambivalence of the government toward Hou, whose 1983 defection was a stinging propaganda blow to the nationalists, is reflected in the Taiwanese public at large.

One-third of the respondents to a recent survey in the China Times newspaper said they welcomed Hou's return, while one-quarter said they did not. Some of the people surveyed referred to Hou as an "opportunist" or "grass on the fence" that bends whichever way the wind blows.

But publisher Chen Pai-Chung looks at the singer in a different light: "Opportunists are those who cater to both sides, but Hou has said things that pleased neither."

Hou, who claims he does not care much about the poll results, would not doubt agree with Chen's evaluation. He is busy writing an autobiography titled "The Real Troublemaker."

The chain-smoking singer, who lives with his two younger brothers in a quiet suburban community, also plans to record an album of songs written during the past two years. One song tells of his wife in China who left him for another exiled dissident, student leader Wu'er Kaizi.



Hou Dejian sits in his makeshift studio in Beijing.

Dissident allowed to write

BEIJING, July 15, (UPI): An intellectual arrested as a leading "black hand" in last year's ill-fated democracy movement has been allowed to write to his wife, his first contact outside the notorious Qincheng prison in nearly nine months of captivity.

The handwritten note from Wang Junao, 32, was the first concrete indication of his confinement at Qincheng, China's leading facility for political prisoners, located in the rolling hills northeast of Beijing.

The dissident intellectual had not been heard from since he went underground last June following the Chinese Army's brutal assault on democracy advocates demonstrating in Beijing's Tiananmen square.

Wang's wife, Hou Xiaotian, 27, told United Press International in an interview today that Wang had been permitted on July 11 — his 32nd birthday — to write the one-page

letter thanking her for a birthday card the exasperated woman had hand-delivered the same day.

Hou beamed with happiness as she displayed the letter but sighed as she explained that public security officials had denied her request to visit Wang.

When I asked if I could see my husband, they said it was impossible," Hou said. "They said, 'we have to wait for a policy.'"

Hou said she had no doubt that the handwriting in the letter was that of Wang, who dated it July 11 and signed it "Junao." The note contained greetings and requests for personal items and books on economics, sociology, jurisprudence and psychology.

Wang is a prominent social scientist and editor who published frequent analyses of China's student-led democracy protests until Beijing ordered the army to forcibly crush the nation-wide movement.

North Korea preparing for reunification fete in August

TOKYO, July 15, (AP): North Korea has begun extensive preparations for reunification of the two Koreas, including inviting South Korean dissidents to a major rally in a move that concerns leery officials across the border.

The North Korean government's official news service said a preparatory committee "for the peace and reunification of the country" met yesterday and discussed the selection of delegates, speeches and a document to be adopted by an

August symposium on peace and reunification. The report was monitored today in Tokyo.

North Korea also is preparing to open a part of its border with South Korea, which condemns the plan as propaganda. Officials are worried that the previously announced reunification conference for youths is designed to encourage dissidents in the South.

North Korea has designated Aug 15 as the day when youths of both Koreas

should meet at a border village for a major unification rally. It has invited South Korean dissidents and radical students to attend the rally.

The report called for the South Korea-based Coalition for National Democratic Movement and the National Council of Student Representatives, both radical dissident groups that Seoul officials believe are covertly linked with North Korea, and other organizations to participate despite opposition from Seoul.

Preparations for a "night of culture," production of poems and songs about reunification, and a "joint meeting" to be held during the festival also were discussed yesterday by committee chairman Yun Gi Bok and others, the news agency said.

The report noted that the prime ministers of each country will meet "before long" and North Korea plans to open its portion of the border at Panmunjom beginning Aug 15.

S. Korean opposition to step up campaign

SEOUL, South Korea, July 15, (AP): The nation's largest opposition party, angered by the parliament's unilateral passage of controversial bills, declared all-out political war today against the government of President Roh Tae-Woo.

Meanwhile, thousands of broadcast workers continued their two-day-old strike to protest what they called a government attempt at tightening its grip on the nation's news media.

"A funeral bell has tolled for the undemocratic, government-controlled parliament," said Rep. Kim Hyung-Bae, the floor leader of the top opposition group, the Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD).

Kim said his party, led by radical leader Kim Dae-Jung, will step up an anti-government campaign by organizing a series of public rallies throughout the country this week. A major rally will be held in Seoul next Sunday, he said.

Kim said his party may boycott the current national assembly which he claimed has degraded into a "rubber stamp." He demanded that the assembly be dissolved immediately to clear the way for new elections.

"All 70 lawmakers of the opposition party tendered their resignations en masse yesterday. The action came a few hours after members of the ruling party in the assembly rammed through several controversial bills aimed at transforming the nation's broadcast and military command system."

Party officials said their leader Kim Dae-Jung will keep the resignations and decide whether to submit them to the national assembly speaker for action. Under Korean law, the speaker can either accept the resignations or refer them to a parliamentary vote.

Earlier, eight lawmakers from the splinter opposition Democratic Party offered to resign. If legislators of both parties carry through with their resignations, the unicameral parliament would be without any opposition members.

But observers think it unlikely that the assembly speaker, a government party member, would move to accept the opposition members. The ruling party, which controls more than two-thirds of seats in the 299-member assembly, has already said it would not support the mass resignations.

At a party caucus yesterday, PPD leader Kim Dae-Jung demanded that government lawmakers also resign to clear the way for new elections. If his demand was met, Kim said he would step up a campaign against the Roh government.

More than 6,000 workers at all the nation's radio and television networks went on strike beginning on Friday and Saturday to protest what they said was the railroad of a controversial broadcast law.

Handreds of riot police remained deployed around the state-run Korea Broadcasting System (KBS) today. Police stormed the network in May to end a 19-day strike.

News and other live programmes at the KBS and other networks were shortened, cancelled or replaced with old tapes. It was the first general strike affecting all radio and television stations.

Information Minister Choe Byung-Yul warned yesterday that the government "will not sit idly if the current situation grows worse and is thought to have a bad effect on the nation."

Row over boat people

Malaysia fears US aid cuts

KUALA LUMPUR, July 15, (UPI): Malaysian leaders said today they would not bow to threats in the US Congress to cut financial aid and duty-free benefits over allegations Malaysia is pushing Vietnamese boatpeople back to sea.

Finance Minister Daim Zainuddin said Malaysia would attempt to block the move by some congressmen to have the World Bank suspend multilateral loans and cut off Malaysia's duty-free access to the US market.

"We have many friends in the US, including the White House, the Republican Party, the private

sector and among ambassadors," he said. "We will ask them not to support the demands of these quarters."

He was commenting on recommendations in a bill proposed to the US Congress by Duncan Hunter, Republican of California, which is home to the largest Vietnamese-American community.

The bill, co-sponsored by California Democrat David Dreier and Republican Dana Rohrabacher, called for the withdrawal of the \$1 million in military aid to Malaysia and an end to duty-free privileges under the generalised system of preferences (GSP).

They also called on the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund to suspend multilateral loans to Malaysia.

Daim said these quarters had always been opposed to Malaysia, particularly in relation to loans from the World Bank, but had failed in their demands.

"These quarters will find issues to thwart Malaysia's efforts to obtain loans from the World Bank ... previously they used the soybean issue and now they are harping on the Vietnamese boat people issue," he said.

"We know their influence with the World Bank is strong, but we have friends ... not only the US has representatives in the World Bank, other countries such as Japan, Germany and Britain are also represented, and usually we get our loans," he said.

Daim said Malaysia seldom applied for loans from the World Bank, Asian Development Bank or the Islamic Development Bank. If its application to the World Bank was rejected, it could apply to other banks, including those in the country.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said the proposed bill was a threat which Malaysia would not succumb to.



With modern office buildings gleaming in the background, a city employee spray-paints old-fashioned electric street lamp on the Hong Kong waterfront. (Reuters wirephoto)

Primitive tribe exists in Vietnam

BANGKOK, July 15, (AP): A primitive tribe of 169 Vietnamese who wear loin cloths made of tree bark were forced to return to jungle cave-dwelling by US bombing during the Vietnam war, the Vietnam news agency said today.

The official agency said the Ruc tribe of the central Vietnam province of Quang Binh "still retain almost intact the main attributes of cave-dwellers."

It said the Ruc have dark complexions and kinky hair — unlike the Chinese-looking majority ethnic group — but their history remains a mystery. The report said the tribesmen keep a permanent fire in their caves that they take with them if they move to another cave. If the fire accidentally goes out, they light another by rubbing together two dried strips of bamboo.

The Ruc were living in caves when discovered 30 years ago by provincial border guards, who gave them rice, farm tools and seeds and taught them to build storks, the report said. They began living in hamlets.

Ika-ten hottest show in Tokyo

Features rock band contest, ticket to fame

TOKYO, July 15, (AP): Every Saturday night, millions of young Japanese tune their televisions to a rock band contest that has changed the face of pop music in Japan.

In only a year and a half, the show "Ika-ten Band Tenshi" (groovy band heaven) has become the hottest late TV programme. It has introduced more than 650 amateur bands, from middle-aged office workers to teens with their hair dyed blond.

The programme's name is usually abbreviated to "Ika-Ten," which also means fried squid. Last year, the editors of a dictionary of modern Japanese chose Ika-Ten as the most popular new word in the country.

It represents a big change for Japanese teens, who mostly have regarded rock music as something to listen to rather than something to perform. Since the programme debuted, sales of musical instruments have surged.

There are at least 20,000 amateur rock bands in Tokyo alone and many more nationwide, estimates Akira Nishikawa, former producer of the show and vice president of Tokyo Broadcasting System, the commercial network that started the show in February 1989.

Several of the bands — Kabuki Rocks, Norma Jean, Jitterin' Jinn — have moved from the show to the top of the pop hit charts, displacing "idol singers," the naive and cute teen-agers who had been the staple of Japanese pop.

Judges on each show pick a winner from 10 among contestants. If the winner repeats for several weeks, it gets a chance to make a record for professional release.

Whatever these rockers are saying, it's not the time-honoured idea of rebellion and protest, say musicians and commentators.

"We are not playing rock to protest against society or the government. It's been done before, and that's old," said Shinji Wajima, guitarist and vocalist with Ningen-Iai (human soul).

"We want to sing about the weakness of an individual, and something about how we can be more human," Wajima says.

"People used to sing folk and rock music for freedom, and that's what music is all about. We are not great, but we are happy to know even we can do

it." His three-man band was launching a professional career in July. Until it appeared on the show last year, Ningen-Iai was unknown.

Commentators say few of the amateur bands believe they can turn professional, but they are striving for a taste of stardom and for some kind of contact with people in a society that is gaining affluence but losing the human touch.

The amateur band phenomenon owes something to karaoke, or singing along with a tape or video — popular in Japanese drinking places — and something also to the street in central Tokyo that is given over to rock bands every Sunday afternoon. Dozens of groups perform weekly, demonstrating that some Japanese youth exuberantly break out of the stereotypical mold of studying and pursuing careers.

In those street concerts, "performers and audiences are equal, which reassures them that they are not alone," said Tatsuya Iba, a writer for the magazine Let's Start a Band.

The magazine has seen its circulation grow to 300,000, and every month it runs 30 pages of ads from people looking for band members.

Osamu Nakano, communications professor at Hosei University in Tokyo, says Japanese youth do not know what to protest against or what to demand, and the point of the bands is to have fun with friends.

"Playing brand-name guitars in the spotlight, they are trying to experience superstardom," Nakano said. "But they know that it is not for real."

The growth of rock bands has spread to Japan Broadcasting Corp. the public television network. It is organising a national rock tournament to which more than 4,100 amateur groups and individuals have applied, many more than expected. After regional contests, 20 bands will compete in November's final competition.

And what are the bands saying? Here's a lyric from a Ningen-Iai song, "Tears of an Apple," sung to heavy-metal guitar crashing by bassist Kenkichi Suzuki with violent shaking of his head.

"When a mountain crowd cries, a village girl picks an apple."

مكتبة الامم

Special Report

Cut off aid to aggressor: Cranston

US 'hands-off' position in Kashmir conflict would be a 'grave mistake'

WASHINGTON, July 15, Senator Alan Cranston (Democrat of California) said July 12 that it is imperative that both India and Pakistan know that the United States would cut all ties and aid to any nation that started a war over Kashmir.

In a speech prepared for delivery on the Senate floor, Cranston, who has just returned from a visit to both countries, said a US "hands-off" position in the event of a conflict would be a "grave mistake."

Following is the text of Senator Cranston's prepared statement:

The volatile situation in the contested territory of Kashmir has substantially increased the risk of war between India and Pakistan.

While the leaders of both countries assured me they do not want war and will work to reduce tensions, a war could break out through accident or miscalculation.

During the recent congressional recess I visited India and Pakistan to learn what I could about disturbing reports of a possible outbreak of hostilities between the two countries. Paramount among these concerns was a perception in Washington that serious strains between India and Pakistan over Kashmir might lead to armed conflict and, possibly, nuclear war.

I went to the region at the invitation of both countries and with the support of Secretary of State James Baker and the Senate foreign relations committee, of which I am a member. While the primary purpose of my trip was to learn all that I could about the true nature of tensions there, I also sought to underline US support for a peaceful resolution of differences between two democracies that share bonds of friendship with the United States.

Refrain

While in Pakistan I stressed to officials there that continued American friendship and support was predicated on two conditions. First — that they refrain from giving aid and material comfort to Muslim insurgents contesting Indian control of the part of Kashmir held by that country. And second, that Pakistan avoid the possibility that President George Bush is unable to certify to Congress — as he is required by law to do every year — that Pakistan does not possess a nuclear bomb.

Similarly, in India I stressed to officials there that the successful containment of any insurgency in the part of Kashmir under their control would require three major changes in governmental policy.

First, the fundamental human rights of Kashmiri citizens must be respected and protected.

Second, that a significant effort be made to promote the region's economic development. And third, that the greatest degree of political autonomy be granted, as is already provided for in the Indian constitution.

My visit included stops in Islamabad, Azad (or Pakistani) Kashmir, and New Delhi. Unfortunately, I was unable to visit Kashmir in India due to a warning by some of those involved in anti-government activities that they would fire at random at any light vehicles travelling in the Kashmir valley.

I regret that this threat of violence made it impossible for me to visit Kashmir to explore at first hand the conditions that

they claim have caused their disaffection.

During the trip I was able to exchange views with a wide variety of political leaders both inside and outside government, with top leaders of the Indian and Pakistani armed forces, as well as with human rights activists and refugees.

I was particularly gratified by the opportunity I had to talk at length with Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, whom I have known for some years, and Indian Prime Minister V.P. Singh, whom I met for the first time. I also held extended talks with the foreign ministers of both countries.

I return to Washington somewhat heartened by the assurances made to me by the political leadership of both nations about their determination to avoid armed conflict. Whatever might be the military outcome of such a clash, there appears to be a generalised recognition that neither side would "win" such an encounter, that it would be a disaster for India and for Pakistan, and that it would not resolve the difficulties in Kashmir.

In recent weeks, prospects for war in the region have lessened somewhat, in part because of the efforts of the two countries to ease tensions and in part due to the fact that the monsoon season makes armed manoeuvres difficult, if not impossible. The tensions that separate them will remain, however, if India and Pakistan do not begin in earnest to resolve some of the differences that have given rise to the current situation.

Concerned

The government of India is most concerned by evidence it asserts shows that Pakistan is arming, training and infiltrating men intent upon undermining Indian control of Kashmir. Indian security forces told me that they have extensive documentation that proves Pakistan is arming and infiltrating men who, they charge, are involved in armed "terrorist" attacks against civilian targets.

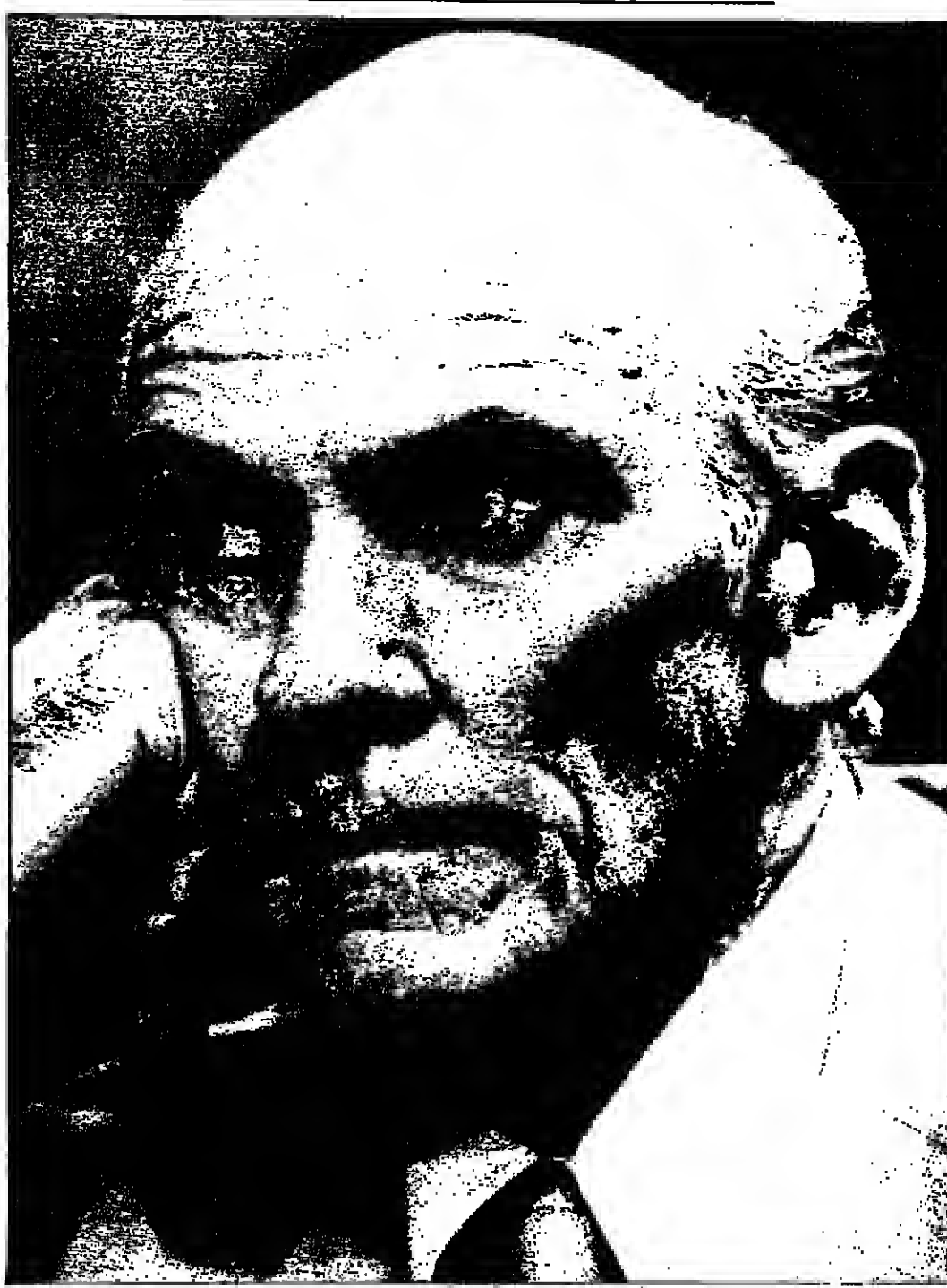
While in Islamabad I had the chance to talk extensively with Pakistani officials about these charges.

I emphasised to them that the special relationship shared by our two countries — and enhanced by Pakistan's generous support for the US-backed Afghan freedom fighters — could be put in jeopardy if Pakistan was perceived to be engaged in an aggressive campaign against its neighbour India.

The government of Pakistan says that it is not now arming or otherwise aiding what it calls Kashmiri "freedom fighters" and what India calls "terrorists." I was particularly pleased by Prime Minister Benazir's comment to me that she knows that war between India and Pakistan would not lead to any lasting solution of the question of Kashmir.

For its part, the government of Pakistan is most concerned by evidence that India's military and paramilitary forces sent to Kashmir to quell armed violence have committed serious and widespread human rights violations. The Pakistanis are also concerned that India is not showing sufficient concern for the economic plight of many Kashmiris and is denying to the Kashmiris — a majority of whom are Muslims — the right to self-determination.

Before embarking on my trip, I had the chance to review the



Cranston

reports of various Indian human rights groups, which corroborated the human rights charges against the Indian security forces. On a subsequent visit to Azad Kashmir, I heard first hand substantiating testimony from dozens of refugees from Indian-held Kashmir.

The refugees, who were being held in two separate camps, offered a convincing view of Indian security force misconduct. I heard stories of old people being summarily executed, of women being held for days at security force encampments where they were repeatedly raped, and children who were forced to watch the brutalisation of their parents, or who were themselves tortured.

The government of India acknowledges that there have been some violations of human rights by its forces, but denies that the violations have been widespread or condoned. However, although high-ranking government officials assured me that such conduct was not officially sanctioned, it was less clear that uniformed offenders had received any real punishment for their acts. I told them that this was unacceptable.

In recent weeks Amnesty International has sought the permission of the Indian government to travel to Kashmir to investigate the rights charges. Their proposed trip has created

something of a political fire storm within India itself, with leaders of the major opposition party asking its militants to use all sorts of means to prevent the Amnesty group from carrying out its work.

Assurances

I was very pleased to receive assurances from two government ministers — both members of Amnesty, as am I — about the organisation's visit. In addition, Indian government officials told me of recent efforts to bolster Kashmir's faltering economy. They also pledged that a significant amount of autonomy already provided for in the Indian constitution, but not carried out in practice — will be implemented as soon as law and order are restored.

The prime ministers of India and Pakistan each assured me that their country does not possess nuclear weapons.

However, both countries have substantially mastered the technology to manufacture nuclear weapons and, I believe, could produce at least some nuclear weapons in a short period of time if they so decide.

I am therefore very concerned that a further heightening of Indo-Pakistan tension over Kashmir could result in both countries producing nuclear weapons and using them if war breaks out. Such a result would be catastrophic for the densely-populated region of 1,000

million people and would be a major setback to US-Soviet efforts to restrain nuclear proliferation and create a more peaceful world.

I believe that — beyond expressions of good will and forbearance — the danger would be still further reduced if both nations would agree to most or all the confidence-building measures suggested to them by Robert Gates of the White House during his recent visits to New Delhi and Islamabad. Both sides need to avoid unexpected military manoeuvres and movements that may alarm the other and would lead to misunderstandings.

The gravest risk continues to be that miscalculations and mistakes might lead to an accidental war.

In less than two weeks the foreign secretaries of both countries will meet in Islamabad. It is my hope that both sides will seek to make that meeting as productive as possible, perhaps issuing a public reaffirmation of their intentions to resolve their dispute by peaceful means and in keeping with existing agreements.

I should also mention my concern about news reports we received from the United States while we were still in New Delhi, to the effect that the United States would — in the event of war — take a "hands off" position on the conflict.

India

(Continued from Page 1)

Janata Dal president Somappa Rayappa Bommai said at a news conference that the two-day-old crisis gripping the minority government was not resolved yet. He refused to elaborate.

Bommai and Rao evaded questions about the fate of Devi Lal's son. Rao, leader of the Telugu Desam Party, said it was up to the Janata Dal to resolve the crisis.

Devi Lal has been promoting his son's political career despite growing protests and outrage from senior Janata Dal members.

Rao, addressing the same conference, said Singh was persuaded to remain in office because "the prime minister does not belong to one party, he belongs to the National Front. He has a commitment to the National Front and to the nation."

Rao and other national leaders of the Front arrived in New Delhi today after local leaders failed yesterday to force Singh to retract his resignation.

Singh submitted his resignation yesterday to the president of his party, who rejected the offer. Singh had insisted his resignation offer remain open until he met with the National Front leaders.

Bommai said the nine ministers' resignations were still in effect.

The party's efforts to retain Singh as prime minister reinforced the view that the prime minister was not serious about resigning and was just trying to force a showdown with Devi Lal, the biggest obstacle to Singh's attempt to gain control of the government.

The Times of India said in a Sunday editorial that "even if the prime minister pulls off a coup and ensures his survival in office, developments since last Thursday will have shattered his image as a knight in shining armour."

The government "may manage to pull back but the nation will have witnessed a sorry spectacle of chicanery... and ineptitude," the independent newspaper said in editions published before Singh retracted his resignation offer.

The daily also published an opinion poll conducted on Saturday that found that 60 per cent of the 2,000 people interviewed wanted Singh to stay as the prime minister.

"Our task was to persuade V. P. Singh to withdraw his resignation. We have done that," said Rao, wearing his habitual saffron robes in keeping with his vow to asceticism.

Bommai said the Chautala issue would be resolved but refused to say when or how.

Singh led his party in ousting Rajiv Gandhi's Congress Party in last November's national elections. Neither party got a majority of seats in Parliament, but the National Front formed the government on the strength of outside support by a right-wing Hindu fundamentalist party and left-wing parties.

The common ground of the three groups was their dislike of the Congress Party.

Thomas Abraham from Delhi adds: Singh's offer to quit set off a flurry of activity in the capital. Several ministers were out of the capital and some even abroad. They were all asked to return immediately. Leaders of other friendly parties also rushed to the capital and began hectic consultations with each other. West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu, who was abroad, cut short his visit and asked Singh not to take any hasty step till his return.

Late yesterday night, the Janata Dal's top leadership held a crisis session to sort out the complicated issues involved in Singh's offer to resign. Well past midnight, a party spokesman told the horde of newsmen gathered outside the meeting hall that Singh's offer and resignation had been accepted. Singh also said the ministers who had resigned would continue to remain in office.

This, of course, was not the first internal crisis that the Janata Dal faced since Singh came to power last December. All the previous problems were also linked to Devi Lal. Once, when he resigned suddenly and the other occasion when Chautala, had to be persuaded to quit in the face of rising public opinion. On both these occasions, Singh seemed to have emerged stronger at the end of it all. That cannot be said of the latest uneasy episode.

Whatever Singh does for the present, the impression that he had tried to bring down Devi Lal (which he denied stoutly) will simply not go away. Even his colleagues wonder how Chautala could have returned to power otherwise. Another close Devi Lal aide, K.K. Deshpande, has resigned from the Rajya Sabha and is being tipped for a diplomatic assignment, possibly in Seychelles.

In fact, this was one of the issues that figured at last night's meeting. There were many suggestions that Chautala should be asked to quit but this time Devi Lal was in no mood to give in easily, maintaining that his son was elected chief minister in a democratic manner.

During the day yesterday, Devi Lal met the press when he ruled out the possibility of Chautala resigning. In fact, he wanted Singh to take action against Nehru, Khan and Malik for resigning from the Council of Ministers, which in his view was an act of indiscipline.

In the evening, the crisis appeared to be deepening, with more resignations from the Council of Ministers. Those who quit, one after the other, were Ministers of State Subodh Kant Sahay (Home), Chinnambai Mehta (Human Resource Development), Bhagya Gobardhan (Planning), Bhajman Behra (Petroleum) and Deputy Finance Minister Anil Shastri.

All of them seemed to be rallying behind Singh in a big way, urging him to act decisively against "negative elements."

Last night's meeting decided that all the matters that led to Singh's offer to resign would be sorted out by Bommai in consultation with senior leaders as quickly as possible. Bommai has asked Janata Dal chief ministers to stay back in the capital for a few days more to be available for consultations.



Overcrowded hospital

Indian patients suffering from gastroenteritis lie on a corridor of an overcrowded hospital in West Bengal on Saturday as they await medical treatment. The outbreak of cholera-like disease has killed at least 124 people. (Reuters wirephoto)

Pesticides pose threat in India

Call to ban DDT

NEW DELHI, July 15: India's 800 million people ingest one of the highest amounts of pesticide residues in the world. Their daily intake has hit the warning level set by the World Health Organisation.

The substances include widely banned DDT and BHC. Significant pesticide deposits have also been found in breast milk.

"We need to take some very hard decisions now," says K.N. Mehrotra, a pesticides expert at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute. "The residues of DDT used in India today will be in our environment for the next 20 years."

Changing course, however, poses deep conflicts for a poor country like India, whose government is the world's largest manufacturer of DDT.

On the one hand, the chemicals play a key role in development: They help control malaria, India's biggest health problem, and are a cornerstone of the "green revolution" that raised food output and averted famine.

On the other hand, India's rising pesticide consumption can only worsen an emerging Third World health threat. More than 80,000 tons of pesticides are used here yearly, 10 times the amount consumed three decades ago. Consumption is expected to rise to 100,000 tons by the turn of the century.

Despite bans in the United States and elsewhere, India continues to rely on DDT and BHC because they are cheap and attack a variety of pests, experts say.

Government officials insist that evidence of the pesticide danger is inconclusive. But critics charge the government is indifferent to the threat, refuses to launch a research effort, and is bogged down in bureaucratic neglect.

A government-appointed expert committee recommended the banning of DDT and BHC in agriculture. Three years later, there has been little official reaction.

More than 20 years ago, legislation regulating use of insecticides was passed. Today,

tolerance levels have been set for less than one-quarter of the 131 pesticides approved for use in India.

"For the government the problem doesn't exist," says A.T. Dudani of the Voluntary Health Association of India. "DDT is invisible, and information is lacking."

"The problem is just not on their agenda," says a Western official at an international aid organisation. "They're more concerned about development and just producing enough."

Manufacturers say efforts are under way to improve safety for workers in pesticide plants and teach farmers how to use insecticides more carefully.

"We are trying to keep up with the latest developments for safer production and efficient products," says S.P. Dhua, chairman of Hindustan Insecticides Ltd, which produces most of India's DDT. "Our policies are upgraded all the time to protect the workers and environment. This has gained new momentum of late after Bhopal."

Experts like Mehrotra say India cannot afford to totally ban pesticides. But there are other less expensive alternatives.

Critics support this view, arguing that more education is needed to teach farmers when to use pesticides and how much; that the government should begin close monitoring of toxic residues and poisoning cases; and set pesticide tolerance levels; and that doctors need to be better informed to detect these cases.

India has only begun experimenting with biological controls in which insect pests are contained by their natural predators, introduced into certain types of crops, instead of using chemicals. Critics say the government should begin phasing out DDT and other highly toxic chemicals, even if it means spending more for substitutes.

"These chemicals are banned in other countries because they take into account environmental costs. Unfortunately, in our country we never look at those other costs," says Mehrotra. "It will cost more to switch to other methods, but it's worth it."

Rabbit returns from the dead

NICOSIA, July 15, (AP): Some days you just can't win.

A Nicosia man was distraught when he saw his two dogs savaging the pet rabbit of a neighbouring family who were away for the weekend.

"The kids loved that rabbit... how can I tell them my dogs killed it?" The man confided to other neighbours on Saturday.

So often the blow for the children, he decided to put the dead rabbit back in its hutch and tell the children that their pet had just keeled over and died.

He washed the rabbit's corpse, dried its fur with a hair dryer and put the dead animal back in its cage.

Not surprisingly, there was a great commotion when the family came home this afternoon.

"Something incredible's happened," the mother told neighbours who rushed to see what was happening.

"Our pet rabbit died three days ago and we buried it in the back yard. But when we got home we found it was back in its cage. It's absolutely unbelievable," she said.

Benazir in Bahrain for talks

Seeks Islamic world support on Kashmir

MANAMA, July 15, (AP): Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto arrived today on the last leg of a tour of Arab nations seeking support in her confrontation with India over Kashmir.

Benazir was received by the Prime Minister, Sheikh Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, with whom she will hold talks during her two-day stay.

She was scheduled to fly home tomorrow at the end of the tour, which has also taken her to Iraq, Kuwait, Morocco and Algeria.

India and Pakistan have fought three wars since independence from Britain 42 years ago, two of them over Kashmir.

More than 700 people have been killed since January in Kashmir, an overwhelmingly Muslim province in predominantly Hindu India, in a crack-down on separatists.

The Indians claim that separatists have sanctuaries in neighbouring Pakistan and cross the border on raids.



Benazir

Muslim Pakistan denies it is harbouring or supporting the militants. But it demands that Kashmiris be allowed to decide their future in a United Nations-sponsored plebiscite.

Benazir's trip came ahead of the annual meeting of the foreign ministers of the 45-member

Organisation of Islamic Conference, umbrella for the world's estimated 1 billion Muslims.

She is seeking to secure the support of OIC countries before the July 31 meeting in Cairo.

In Algiers, Benazir conferred yesterday with Algerian President Chadli Benjedid and

Premier Moudol Hamrouch on regional and international issues.

An official announcement said that the exchanges, in the presence of the two countries' foreign ministers, also tackled bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

AMERICA

Fitzgerald returns home: Jazz great Ella Fitzgerald was released Saturday from a hospital after treatment for exhaustion and dehydration and planned to return home, a hospital spokeswoman said.

The Bronovo hospital spokeswoman said Ms Fitzgerald was released Saturday morning and was returning to her Los Angeles home. The spokeswoman declined to comment on the jazz singer's condition.

Ms Fitzgerald, 72, was rushed to Bronovo hospital last Monday after falling ill in her hotel room. (AP)

Fuel leaks located: NASA engineers were more hopeful Saturday after they uncovered two different fuel leaks affecting the American ground shuttle fleet, but agency officials said they would be patched quickly and that shuttles soon would be flying again.

Meanwhile, the head of the investigative team assigned to determine what went wrong with the troubled Shuttle Space Telescope promised a congressional committee that he and his colleagues would pinpoint the error and fix responsibility for the blunder that crippled the orbiting observatory. (Kuna)

Tunnel repair begins: Transportation and fire officials who inspected several hundred feet of burned-out metro rail tunnel Saturday in Los Angeles worried that weakened tunnel supports could cause another collapse but found that the Hollywood freeway structure was sound.

"There is really no damage to the freeway roadbed. The damage is in the tunnel," Caltrans spokesman Steve Leung said. "The danger is because of the supports that burned off. There is a possibility that it could cave in."

Officials had worried that the fire and collapse of one section of the tunnel had weakened the freeway's structural integrity. (UPI)

Patriarch urges unity: Patriarch Dimitrios, the spiritual leader of 250 million orthodox Christians, said Saturday that the "third millennium" of Christianity should be a time for healing the ruptures that marked its history in the last thousand years.

"Divisions and schisms cannot be justified in the life of the churches," the patriarch declared during a special service sponsored by the National Council of Churches at Columbia University. (AP)

Bear feast: A Baptist Church founded in the mountain wilderness of Stewartstown, West Virginia, 215 years ago will celebrate its anniversary Sunday with a "bear feast" to honour the animal that helped keep its founders alive.

"It wasn't easy for the settlers to bring cows, sheep and other domestic animals across the Allegheny mountains," said the Rev. Joseph Gluck, pastor emeritus and historian of the Forks-of-Cheat Baptist Church.

"That's why the black bear became one of the great sources of meat for the people who founded our church," Gluck said. "It was a staple. We eat some every year as a sort of memorial. Besides, it's a lot of fun." (AP)

MIA searches: Vietnamese officials blasted US experts who alleged that Vietnam is warehousing the remains of missing Americans, and they called for quick resumption of joint MIA searches, official Vietnamese Radio reported.

A US embassy spokesman said a six-man US military delegation returned from Hanoi Thursday night at the end of three days of talks, but had no comment on the discussions.

The technical level discussions focused on past and future efforts to resolve the fates of the 1,678 Americans listed as missing in action in Vietnam, the radio said in a broadcast late Thursday.

"The Vietnamese team thinks that it is necessary to conduct the 11th joint search at an early date in anticipation of the rainy season to help quickly solve this humanitarian issue," the radio said.

The last of 10 joint operations, since co-operation of MIAs resumed in 1987, was carried out in March. A technical meeting was scheduled for April to plan new operations, but US officials declined to schedule the meeting until this week.

Late last month, Navy Rear Adm. Ronald Marryott, deputy director of the Defence Intelligence Agency, said forensic experts had found evidence that some remains returned by



Jazz fusion

Jazz fusion and photographic fusion came together in a double exposure of jazz legend Miles Davis who played to a packed house at the 15th annual North Sea Jazz Festival in The Hague. (Rauter wirephoto)



Basel zoo

A young baby rhinoceros stands next to its mother at the Basel zoo on Friday. An unidentified Swiss woman was killed by the mother on Friday when the woman entered the cage and approached the young rhino. (Reuters wirephoto)

Friday when the woman entered the cage and approached the young rhino. (Reuters wirephoto)

Prostitution

Gang beats up journalist

BANGKOK, July 15, (AP): A gang beat a journalist whose coverage of forced prostitution in southern Thailand prompted police raids on brothels, the victims newspaper reported today.

The Nation newspaper said the journalist, Prayuth Siwayaviroj, was pistol-whipped and cut over his eye in Friday's attack, and a friend was admitted to the hospital with bad cuts and a broken jaw.

About 10 men surrounded the two as they were leaving Sadoo, a village with 50 brothels that Prayuth was investigating, the newspaper said.

"You are the troublemaker," Prayuth quoted the gang leader as saying before the assault.

One assailant pointed a .38-calibre pistol at the journalist when he tried to carry away his friend, who lost consciousness after being struck, the newspaper said. But a villager seized the gun and the assailants fled.

The article quoted the local police chief, Lt. Col. Wanhai Seewit, as saying he knew the identities of the assailants and would arrest them soon.

Vietnam showed evidence of long-term storage. The Vietnamese side dismissed the reports about US soldiers still alive and about the storage depot of US remains, regarding these as ill-intentioned fabrications," the Vietnamese Radio said.

The radio said the charges were an effort to halt growing pressure from the American public and Congress to lift the US economic embargo against Vietnam.

"Perhaps the present political atmosphere has forced the US higher echelons to allow the deputy director of the US intelligence agency to resurrect the force over the remains of US soldiers to incite the American people to adopt a hostile attitude against Vietnam," it said. (UPI)

11 killed in Burma: A land mine planted by Karen rebels blew up a bus in southern Burma, killing 11 people and wounding 14 others, a state-owned newspaper reported Sunday.

The vehicle hit the land mine Friday near Thinganying, about 256 kms (160 miles) southeast of the national capital, Rangoon, the Working Peoples Daily said.

The newspaper blamed the Karen ethnic minority, which has been fighting for greater autonomy for the past four decades. The Karens have suffered heavy losses to intensified government offensives the past two years, including several main bases near the Thai border.

It was not possible to independently confirm the newspaper account. (AP)

45 miners killed: A mine explosion in northeast China's Shandong province killed 45 coal miners, a local report said.

The provincial radio report said rescue workers managed to save 56 people despite high temperatures in the mine after Friday's "exceptionally serious" blast.

The report, carried by the British Broadcasting Corp's monitoring service, was seen in Beijing on Sunday.

Eleven people were injured, five of them seriously, when the mine in central Shandong's Xinwen county exploded shortly before midnight. Xinwen is about 150 kms (93 miles) south of the provincial capital of Jinan.

The cause of the blast was under investigation, the report said.

Most Chinese coal mines lack modern equipment and safety provisions. Official figures indicate about 1,780 miners were killed in accidents last year. (AP)



Under arrest

Zvi Becker is escorted by Israeli police to face extradition charges after fleeing West Germany four months ago. An international arrest warrant charges Becker with bribery and tax evasion in Frankfurt. He was arrested in Israel last Friday. (Reuters wirephoto)

New treatment: Doctors in Britain are about to test a new treatment designed to reverse the worst effects of ageing, it was reported in London.

The Sunday Times newspaper said that men and women over 60 are to be invited to try the pioneering hormone treatment, which can help them look years younger.

Doctors say the drug can make people appear up to 20 years younger, making them slimmer as lean muscle replaces fat accumulated during ageing, as well as fitter, more energetic and even slightly taller.

The genetically engineered hormone has so far been used mainly to help children with stunted growth.

But according to Professor Peter Sinksen, who is to supervise the trials at St Thomas's Hospital in London, daily injections of the hormone could make it easier for many elderly people to cope with life. (Kuna)

Pope celebrates mountain mass

Pope John Paul II interrupted his mountain hiking holiday on Sunday as he celebrated mass in front of 5,000 pilgrims at a sanctuary located nearly 2,000 metres above sea level.

The Polish Pope travelled to the sanctuary of Baraccas in the Italian Alps near Mont Blanc for the outdoor service, his only scheduled public appearance of a vacation which began on Wednesday and will end Friday.

Assisting at the ceremony was a local choir, "Les Montagnes Valdaines," and a group of mountain guides and local residents dressed in traditional costumes. (UPI)

Oldest person to reach peak: A 90-year-old Swiss guide reached the peak of the Matterhorn on Saturday, exactly 125 years after the first ascent of the mountain.

Ulrich Inderbielen, the oldest person ever to scale the distinctive pyramid-shaped summit, took only nine hours to complete the remarkable outward and return journey, said Zermatt resort director Amade Perreg.

'Seize chance for peace'

Ex-senator Percy warns Middle East

WASHINGTON, July 15: Former Senate Foreign Relations committee chairman Charles Percy said July 11 that Congress, the administration and all US allies in the Middle East must move now to seize the moment for peace in the Middle East.

In a morning newsmaker press conference at the National Press Club, Percy warned that with the disarming of Eastern Europe and increasing flow of weapons to the region "there is a gathering momentum toward violence and war."

Percy outlined a six-step approach to peace in the region, including an early resumption of the US-PLO dialogue, economic pressure on Israel to begin talks with Palestinians and an international observer force to report on human rights practices in the occupied territories.

"Israel has won its battle and should and can declare victory and make peace through the sharing of technology and goodwill within the Mideast," Percy said, warning that "all could be lost if Israel does not seize this great opportunity."

Text

Following is the text of Percy's prepared remarks: I thank you very much indeed, and I thank all of you for being with us. And I say "us" because I include every member of the mission that could make it here today that went out to the Middle East.

I have given you the statement that I have prepared, and with one major change that I will add to it.

I did recently return from an extended trip in the Middle East, travelling for nearly three weeks with a group of 45 Americans and two Canadians from many walks of life under the auspices of the PAX World Foundation of Bethesda, Maryland. Included in the group were Christians, Jews and Muslims.

Of all the trips I have taken to the Middle East through the past 40 years, this was the most significant, exciting, meaningful and yet personally discouraging visit from one standpoint, encouraging from another.

A dynamic new era in world history has been ushered in by the ascent of democratic and free-market principles around the world; the quest for peace, justice and human rights, especially in South Africa and Eastern Europe; and the replacement of military arms for economic development expenditure in much of the developed world. Heroes have emerged to captivate the public's imagination, and I have never been so thrilled as to see both of those heroes at a joint session of Congress — Havel of Czechoslovakia and Mandela in South Africa.

Impediments

In the Middle East, however, there are stubborn impediments to the changes and reform that could alter the emergence of the 1990s as the decade of prosperity and peace.

At the very time that all sides to the Mideast conflict acknowledge the pre-eminent role the US must play in the peace process, there is a common perception that US-government actions are undermining its ability to be an objective and fair mediator.

Actions by US leaders, especially in Congress, have contributed to anti-Americanism ranging from rage to profound disappointment, often among the very moderates around which the US government hopes to build a consensus for peace. Unusual courage by leaders both here and in the Middle East will be required if a massive war of destruction is to be avoided.

On this trip, we met with many leaders in Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Israel, and the occupied territories. We had lengthy discussions with President Assad in Damascus, King Hussein and Crown Prince Hassan in Amman, the Palestinian leader Faisal Husseini in East Jerusalem, and notables of Ramallah, Nablus, Gaza, and Bethlehem. In Israel, we met with then Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, who is the new Defense Minister, Yitzhak Moda'i, the new Finance Minister, Gen. Goren, civilian administrator of the occupied territories, and Shimon Peres, leader of the Labour Party.

Separate from the group, I met with President Mubarak of Egypt and President Hiriawi of Lebanon, while Ian Waddell, sitting to my right, a Canadian Member of Parliament from Vancouver, met with chairman Arafat of the PLO on a separate trip to Baghdad due to emergency meetings Arafat held when the entire delegation was in the Middle East.

First step

As a group, we took a common stand on a number of issues. First, we firmly support the opening of direct talks between the recognised representatives of the Palestinian people and Israelis, without preconditions, as a first step towards settling a range of difficult issues that concern co-existence.

Secondly, we stated plainly our support for the creation of a Palestinian state from land now occupied by Israel with international guarantees of secure borders to protect both Israelis and Palestinians.

Because a Palestinian state is not an immediate issue being negotiated, we did not spend much time discussing this position, but we felt it important to signal those that oppose Palestinian self-determination that increasing numbers of Americans now understand the need for a more comprehensive approach to the Palestinian problem than some limited form of autonomy.

Following are snapshots — and it's

appropriate for a former head of an American motion picture or picture company to use the term snapshots — of what we learned in the course of our three week trip. A dominant factor in explaining the increased tensions which we heard repeatedly from both Arabs and Jews is the growth in fundamentalism and political extremism. Crown Prince Hassan of Jordan said that the real enemy is the expanding fundamentalist movement, both in the Arab states and Israel. He said that the rising tide of religious fanaticism must be contained, and that it can only be contained if the Israeli-Arab conflict is resolved.

A Palestinian intellectual from Nablus warned that fundamentalist takeover could lead to jihad, a holy war. And a Jordanian official said that extremists in Jordan and the occupied territories are gaining support and sympathy by capitalising on the increasing frustration of the Palestinians. I do not doubt this. The trend is obvious and ominous at the same time.

Poster

Today in the West Bank and Gaza, the military occupation is arbitrary and harsh, and worse than at anything in the past 23 years. One of the peace groups in Israel, concerned that their fellow citizens are not alarmed enough about human rights abuses



Charles Percy

in the occupied territories, had a poster out, distributed around, and shows an Israeli soldier beating a young Palestinian with a caption under the photo saying, "Don't say you didn't know." The same should be said of anyone outside Israel after two and a half years of the intifada.

We met also with Anne Nixon, the courageous woman who in the first two years of the intifada directed the project for Swedish Save the Children that chronicled beyond a doubt the devastating effect of the occupation on Palestinian children. She lamented the pain and suffering she said was being caused by US military support for the Israeli government. Her report made an interesting comparison. In effect, it takes numbers of deaths and injuries among Palestinians and relates it to American children as if to ask, "How would we as Americans respond?" Children were defined as age 15 and under.

Using this approach, the 157 Palestinian children who died from gunfire, beatings and tear-gas in the first two years of the intifada translate to what would be 9,680 American children killed proportional to the population. The figure of 50,000 to 63,000 Palestinian children injured by gunfire, beatings, tear-gas and other causes during the same time frame translates proportionally to 3 to 3.8 million American children injured.

Think how this nation would respond to those kinds of figures happening here. This is the way they're responding in Palestine. Understandably, the reaction of the Palestinians is one of despair and anger over the hardships and dangers that have distorted the nature of their daily lives. But their reaction is also one of greater determination to continue the struggle for their political rights. By supporting and participating in the intifada, they seem to have regained their self-respect after years of hopelessness and humiliation.

This type of injustice is the chief contributing factor to rise of extremism on both

sides. It provokes Arab extremism, which in turn is used to justify demands for essentially a riskless peace approach by Israeli present leaders and, by default, a continuation of the very dangerous status quo.

For example, we spoke with Members of Parliament in Jordan from the Muslim Brotherhood Party and heard one of the more radical members cite this type of information on human rights abuses against Palestinians to justify the denial of Israel's right to exist.

Another example, the Abu Abbas raid occurred the day before we arrived in Israel, and our group roundly condemned it and urged chairman Arafat to denounce it. While there is no doubt that Israel's security is a top priority in any responsible plan for a peace process, we witnessed how the raid was used by Likud hardliners to justify inaction on the whole peace process. The raid had the effect of putting the Israeli peace community completely on the defensive and the hardline extremists in control.

The impact of the intifada on Israel was much discussed, and it is obvious that many are deeply saddened by what is happening just as are a majority of American Jews. American-born Rabbi David Forman, who has lived with his family in Israel for many years, is a spokesman for Rabbinate Human Rights Watch, a group of 90 Israeli rabbis from all branches of Judaism, who find human rights violations in the West Bank and Gaza deplorable. Forman said that the Arabs may be suffering in the short term, but in the long term it's the Jewish nation that will suffer because its moral base is deterioration.

From the Arabs, we encountered a mounting anger and hostility toward the United States which they accuse of total bias against the Arabs and unquestioning support of Israel. President Assad said, "The US is responsible for what is being done. Either establish a just peace or treat us exactly as you treat Israel." A Jordanian legislator asked, "What do you expect from the Arabs, who see you providing money and destructive technology to the Jews in your support for Israeli aggression against our people?"

Intensified

This feeling intensified dramatically when the United States vetoed the UN resolution calling for international observers to investigate the situation in the occupied territories. The veto was seen by Arabs as an outrageous act of support for the continued Israeli occupation. The suspension of the US-PLO dialogue further aroused Arab passions against the United States.

We found Arabs also inflamed by the arrival of tens of thousands of Soviet Jews in Israel. The Arabs are convinced that the immigrants will settle in the territories or will take living space in Israel, forcing other Israelis to be settled in the occupied territories. The international outcry brought pressure on Israel not to follow this course, and probably has had a restraining effect on Israeli policy. But, Israeli officials still insist that Soviet Jews will not be barred from the territories.

In general, it is clear that the peace process must be resumed in this region, where Iraq threatens the use of chemical weapons, where Israel has nuclear weapons, where missiles and fighter planes and tanks abound and shipments of arms increase daily as a result of the disarmament in Eastern Europe. Suspicion and distrust and hate cloud the senses of millions of people, and leaders are being goaded into unwise and counterproductive actions by extremists.

From my experience over the years and my observations of the current situation on this trip, I believe there is a gathering momentum toward violence and war. Only renewal of the peace process can revive hope for a political solution. I urge the Shamir government to help redeem the world's respect by starting a healing process through opening talks with legitimate representatives of the Palestinian people, and by relaxing and humanizing its administration of the territories.

Recommendations

I respectfully make the following recommendations — and here I am speaking personally, and not for the group, to my former colleagues in the Congress and to all those in the executive branch struggling with the problems of achieving a just solution for peace in the Middle East.

First, the administration must work toward an early resumption of a discussion between the PLO and the United States at a gradually increasing level of authority. The break in dialogue has rewarded the extremists on all sides. And it is the moderate Jews and Arabs who have diligently been seeking peace who are the losers.

Second, we must use every acceptable measure of persuasive — not punitive — pressure, together with our friends in the Arab world, such as President Mubarak of Egypt and King Hussein of Jordan, to urge the Israelis to enter into direct negotiations with representatives of the Palestinians.

Third, an international observer force, either from the UN or a group of countries trusted by both sides, must be sent to the occupied territories to study and report on human rights conditions in that area.

Ethiopia poised to re-open key Red Sea port for emergency food relief deliveries

ADDIS ABABA, July 15, (UPI): International food relief workers were due to arrive in the northern Ethiopian Red Sea port of Massawa tomorrow for the first time since Eritrean rebels captured the strategic town five months ago.

Since February government planes frequently have bombed the port, 470 miles (750 km) north of Addis Ababa, in unsuccessful efforts to dislodge the rebels of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front, who have fought for nearly three decades to secede from Ethiopia.

Threatened, however, with a horrifying repeat of the famine that killed over a million

Ethiopians in 1984, the government and the rebels last week finally agreed to re-open Massawa — a crucial conduit to the barren northern highlands — for emergency food relief deliveries by the UN's World Food Programme.

A four-person WFP technical team sailed yesterday from neighbouring Djibouti and was due to arrive in Massawa tomorrow to assess the condition of the port as well as inland bridges and roads along which food convoys would have to pass.

All being well, major food and shipments could start coming through Massawa in a matter of weeks, pending further agreement

between the EPLF and the government on how to distribute the food.

Ad workers based in Addis Ababa agreed, however, that the start of shipments would also be the start of a logistical nightmare, as convoys would move along roads criss-crossed with battle lines and food would have to be distributed — without annoying or losing the trust of either side — to an estimated four million desperate people scattered across both rebel- and government-held territory.

Trucks would pick up food in Massawa, then climb the steep escarpment to the Eritrean capital of Asmara 40 miles (65 km) inland to the West, the last remaining govern-

ment garrison in the region. From there, supplies would be distributed by both officials and rebel-run relief agencies around drought-hit areas of Eritrea and Tigray, the province to the south.

At the moment trucks are being forced to follow a tortuous route from the southern port of Assab, 390 miles (625 km) northeast of Addis Ababa, through Dessie, 250 miles (400 km) back towards the capital and then north into territory held by Ethiopia's other rebel group, the Tigray People's Liberation Front.

Unlike the secessionist EPLF, the TPLF is fighting simply to overthrow Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Miriam. The two

groups have, however, liaised to produce a series of major military defeats for the government in the past year.

The US, with the help of a coalition of local church groups calling itself the joint relief partnership, Unicef and the Red Cross, is currently also flying in a total of 160 tons of food a day on four daily shuttle flights from Assab to Asmara. A town of 400,000 people, Asmara has been besieged by the EPLF since last year.

According to the government's relief and rehabilitation commission, the total Ethiopian population in need of food could be as high as 4.5 million people, 1.25 million of

whom are in Eritrea. Almost half the people in Asmara now line up at food distribution centres to receive their monthly food rations. Thousands more wait in the surrounding areas of Karen and Hagaz.

"With 160 tons a day, no one will die of hunger as long as the operation continues," said Bruno Speck, a Swiss disaster relief unit officer on loan to the UN.

"Bringing food in will also help people happy we started the air operation. It makes them think it's more secure," he said, but cautioned that this was not necessarily the case.

'No use pointing fingers at Israel'



Findley

Findley emphasises in ME affairs report

WASHINGTON, July 15. (Kuna): A prominent former senator, Paul Findley, has bluntly told the Bush administration that "pointing a finger" at Israel "is not enough to halt a slide toward war" in the Middle East region.

Findley said, "finger pointing, scolding and public offering of telephone numbers is good theatre, but not enough substance to get results."

Findley, who was defeated in elections by the strong pro-Israeli lobby, was referring to Secretary of State James Baker, who in an appearance before Congress in June, blamed Israel for halting the peace process and slowly announced the telephone number for Israel to call any time it is willing to co-operate.

"If Israel had merely a normal relationship with the US, this verbal attack by a high

official on a small foreign state heavily dependent on US largesse would have shaken the timbers and produced a tide of support for the administration both within Congress and throughout the US.

"Indeed, if conducted within a normal foreign policy relationship, Baker's dressing down would likely have led to the resignation of the offending government," the former senator emphasised in a study published here in the Washington report on Middle East affairs.

He added, "but Israel's relationship with the US is not normal. Israel's supporters occupy influential positions throughout US society — not just in the media — and are employed by the US government in every office that has any important relationship in the making of US policy in the Middle East ...

relentlessly, step by step, they have assiduously developed over the years a tight grip on America's Middle East policy."

According to Findley, the power of the pro-Israel lobby substantially rests on "false perceptions — Israel's US champions really are not 100 feet tall. But perceptions count heavily in politics and Israel's lobby has demonstrated that a few dedicated people can control a superpower."

Because Israel was the target of Baker's finger-pointing, the attack did little more than quicken the pulse of a few citizens already alarmed about Israel's grip on their government, the former congressman said.

"It was shrugged off by a Congress completely terrorized by Israel's lobby," he noted.

Jewish lobby in US weakens

LONDON, July 15. (Kuna): The vaunted pro-Israel lobby in the United States is weakening, according to a report published here today.

The report, published in the Sunday Telegraph newspaper cited US Secretary of State James Baker's public rebuke to Tel Aviv earlier this year, when he said: "When you're serious about peace, call us."

What was remarkable about this "theatrical gesture" was that it attracted so little criticism, the paper said.

It noted that the silence of the American Jews was eloquent, indicating that the US administration's frustration with Israel was "for the first time" felt in the Israeli lobby itself.

The paper pointed out that the change in the strategic equation in the Middle East as a result of the diminishing Soviet presence there has weakened the importance of Israel as an American ally.

In addition, the budget deficit and the demand for American dollars to support the emerging democracies in Eastern Europe have put pressure on the US "funds allocated to Israel," it was argued.

But the most important factor at work in limiting Israeli influence on US foreign policy is the division within the American Jewish community itself, the paper suggested.

It noted that recent polls have shown that a solid majority of Jews in the United States are in favour of the policy that the Shamir government has been resisting — trading land in the occupied West Bank and Gaza for peace.

League to deal with US move

TUNIS, July 15. (UPI): The Palestine Liberation Organisation hopes that the Arab League's ministerial council meeting scheduled to begin later today will strongly condemn Washington's decision to end the dialogue with the PLO. Arab sources said.

In the three weeks since President Bush decided to end the meetings between US ambassador to Tunisia Robert Pelletreau and PLO representative Haniyeh Haniyeh, PLO officials have said that a strong Arab reaction is necessary at a time when Israel has increased its repression in the occupied territories.

But at the same time the Palestinians say they are still attached to the dialogue with the United States. Earlier this month PLO leader Yasser Arafat was quoted as telling a Palestinian weekly published in Paris that he would like to see a resumption of talks with Washington.

"I am not a romantic," Arafat was quoted as saying by the Al Yom Al Sabath weekly. "I am a politician and I recognise the importance of a dialogue with a country such as the United States."

The PLO has postponed indefinitely a meeting of its Central Council that was scheduled for July 18 in the Iraqi capital, a Palestinian official said today.

An Arab League envoy arrived in war-weary Beirut today hoping to breathe new life into efforts to resolve the protracted conflict, as rival Muslim militiamen battled with cannons in southern Lebanon.

Officials said Lakhdar Al Ibrahim, who arrived by air from Saudi Arabia, held talks with President Elias Hiriawi, focusing on a government plan to end militia presence in Beirut.

Talks focus on all Arab issues

Mubarak, Assad bid to heal rift

CAIRO, July 15. (UPI): The Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories and the immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel featured prominently in summit talks today between Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, sources said.

The two leaders discussed a host of bilateral concerns, a high-ranking Syrian source said, noting the talks focused on consolidating Egyptian-Syrian positions concerning the various topics.

In statements carried by Egypt's Middle East News Agency, the Syrian source said that Assad and Mubarak also discussed means of settling Syria's tensions with Iraq, the Palestinian-Syrian differences and the possible release of Egyptian prisoners of war captured by Iraq during its Gulf conflict with Iraq.

"Consolidating Egyptian-Syrian ties would have a positive impact on the Arab world," the source said.

"The visit of President Assad to Egypt would have positive and historic impact on the Middle East."



Settlements

In an apparent effort to avoid international denunciation, the Israeli government has embarked on a plan to expand already built Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and to increase the number of settlers, according to reports received in Amman.

The reports made available to Kuna the new plan stipulates for gradual expansion of settlements with the aim of changing them to cities and settling Jewish immigrants in them.

According to the plan, the intensification of settlements would include the construction of 5,000 housing units a year.

The number of settlers in the West Bank at present is 84,000 while those in the Gaza Strip are estimated at 4,000.

The number next year is expected to increase by 6,830 and the total number of settlers is due to reach 91,000.

Cyri Slain, carries a chair as a recent Soviet immigrant (left) gives a helping hand. Much of the old furniture from the refurbished Jerusalem Hilton hotel was given to Soviet immigrants.

Can it be parts for missiles? US bans furnaces to Iraq

WASHINGTON, July 15. (Kuna): The US after first approving it, now is holding up the sale of special industrial furnaces to Iraq, alleging they might be used to make missile or nuclear bomb parts, US officials said today.

"The primary concern is that they can make parts for missiles, an official claimed in a statement to the New York Times after demanding anonymity. "In tandem, these furnaces can give the Iraqis the capacity for a production line much greater than they need for medical prosthetics."

Baghdad reportedly contends the furnaces — which can melt titanium and other exotic or lightweight metals — are for making artificial limbs.

But Paul Wolfowitz, a senior Pentagon official, urged the State Department in a letter this past week to halt the planned shipment of the furnaces from Consarc Corp, their New Jersey producer.

Wolfowitz' action comes only a few days before a temporary US government ban on the sale was due to expire.

The sale had US Commerce Department approval, but another agency, the customs service, ordered the manufacturer to wait 20 days while officials explored the furnaces.

The prohibition expires next Tuesday.

"The countries are discussing means of transcending all existing differences in the Arab world," the source said.

Assad, accompanied by a 12-member high-ranking delegation that includes Vice-President Abdul-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Farouk Sharaa, arrived yesterday.

Libyan leader Moammar Khaddafi meanwhile phoned the two presidents from Tripoli to wish them success, the Middle East News Agency said.

Egyptian government officials said the talks between Assad and Mubarak also dealt with the next Arab summit meeting in November in Cairo.

One Egyptian official said that both Assad and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, Assad's arch foe, would attend the summit.

Moderate Arab countries including Saudi Arabia are spearheading a campaign to reconcile Assad with Saddam. Others are trying to end the existing rift between Assad and Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Egyptian officials said the Lebanon issue was also high on the agenda in the talks between Assad and Mubarak.

Arab diplomatic sources said Assad would make efforts to reconcile Iran and Egypt. Iran ruptured ties with Cairo in 1979 when it signed peace with Israel.

An undetermined number of Egyptian soldiers, who fought along side the Iraqi Army, had been captured by Iran during its eight-year Gulf war against Iraq.

Egypt is hosting the upcoming meeting of foreign ministers of the 45-member Organisation of Islamic Conference, scheduled to open July 31. Cairo said Iran would take part in the meeting.

In Beirut, Abdullah Al Ahmad, the secretary-general of Syria's ruling Baath Party, in statements broadcast today by a Lebanese leftist radio station, said Assad's visit to Egypt was in line with a strategy aimed at unifying Arab ranks.

Egypt and Syria today agreed to establish co-operation in the fields of oil research and projects, communications, transport and other spheres.

Egyptian Information Minister Safwat Al Sharif said in a statement, following the end of talks between Syrian Vice-President Abdul-Halim Khaddam and Egyptian Premier Ataf Sedki, that the two sides agreed also to co-ordinate educational programmes, trade scientific expertise and co-operate in the field of university research.

British firms dealing with Iran

LONDON, July 15. (Kuna): One of Britain's leading aviation companies is supplying Iran with spare parts for its American jet fighters, despite an international arms embargo, it was reported today.

The Independent on Sunday newspaper reported that the company, Martin Baker, based in Uxbridge, near London, has been exporting spares for US-made F-4 Phantom jets and F-5 Tigers to Tehran since 1988.

It has won a series of contracts, thought to be worth over £50 million, to refit cockpits and provide seats, the paper said.

It added that the UK Department of Trade and Industry is said to have approved the deals, despite the fact that the embargo forbids the export of equipment intended for military use.

The most recent deal, worth £200,000, received an official export licence only last week, the paper claimed, citing company sources.

Both Martin Baker and the Department of Trade and Industry have refused to confirm the story, it was pointed out.

"Meanwhile, the paper noted that the UK Foreign Office, which is consulted by the Department of Trade and Industry on all defence exports, has denied that the company was given a special exemption to trade with Iran in the interests of improving relations."

Another company, Lucas Industries admitted two months ago that it was negotiating a \$200 million contract to overhaul Iran's fleet of Boeing 747s, as part of a deal to free Western hostages in Lebanon, the paper noted.

It said that the US and UK authorities had "let it be known that they were to grant a special exemption for Lucas, despite the arms embargo."

In a related development, the paper reported that a second UK company, BNL, is currently facing prosecution for illicitly exporting tyres for F-4 and F-5 jets to Tehran.

The company claims that it received an assurance from the Department of Trade and Industry that the arms embargo did not cover tyres, even when destined for military aircraft, the Independent noted.

US doubts ILF's claim

WASHINGTON, July 15. (Kuna): The State Department expressed its belief that the Islamic Liberation Front's claim that it was behind a recent fire in a chemical plant here in the US in Texas, cannot in any way be substantiated at this stage.

In a statement to an international news agency earlier Friday, the Islamic Liberation Front said in a statement in Amman, Jordan, that its group was responsible for an explosion at an Atlantic Richfield Co. (ARCO) chemical plant fire on July 5.

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher, asked about the claim, said, "there is absolutely no information to substantiate this reported claim. The explosion at the chemical plant is being investigated by Atlantic Richfield and by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration."

Egypt arrests 26 extremists: Security forces arrested 26 Muslim extremists in renewed clashes at a small village in the southern Egyptian town of Asyut, a hotbed of Muslim extremism, police sources said on Saturday.

Police sources said the security forces using tear-gas to intervene after the extremists assaulted them, tried to cause rioting and attacked members of a Musical Band on Friday.

The sources said that the extremists firing shots and using sticks also tried to incite rioting among the masses and then took refuge at one of the mosques in Asyut, about 220 miles (350 km) south of Cairo.

Security forces using tear-gas dispersed them after the extremists assaulted police, the sources said.

One extremist was killed and another died of his injuries on the way to the hospital, the sources said, and eleven were injured.

The Middle East News Agency quoted police sources as saying that security forces also arrested another Muslim extremist identified as Assad El Saeed El Adel, a house painter, who is accused of throwing Molotov cocktails into a tourist restaurant in the Red Sea resort town of Hurghada, setting it on fire.

Two, one a German girl and the other a Swiss woman, were killed, the sources said. Their identities were not revealed. Two Egyptians were slightly injured in the restaurant attack in Hurghada, about 280 miles (450 km) south east of Cairo. (UPI)

Levy to meet Baker in August: Foreign Minister David Levy, still recovering from a heart attack, can meet with US Secretary of State James Baker no sooner than August, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said yesterday.

In a recent letter to Baker, Levy said his health forced him to postpone any meeting until at least August, but that he "will meet Baker any time after that," the spokesman said.

Levy suffered a heart attack last month shortly after the formation of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's right-wing coalition government. Since the formation of the new government, there have been no high-level meetings between Israeli and US officials.

Israeli officials have said that the only thing holding up a meeting between Levy and Baker is the foreign minister's health.

Last week, Levy told visiting American Jewish leaders that he hoped talks with Baker would lead to a breakthrough in the stalled Middle East peace process. (UPI)

Young rabbi told to marry: Israel's Sephardic chief rabbi has taken away the job of the country's youngest rabbi, saying the 20-year-old man must marry and gain "experience of marital relations" before taking up the religious post.

Chief Rabbi Mordechai Eliahu, "froze" the credentials of Rabbi Yaacov Avitan, who recently was named spiritual leader of Ben Shikma, a farming community of about 1,000 in southern Israel, rabbinic spokesman Shmuel Zafarani said yesterday.

Avitan's "lack of experience with marital relations" was a main factor in the decision, said Zafarani. He explained that giving married couples advice about sexual matters was one of a rabbi's duties.

"To do this, he has to know these matters from up close. A doctor who hasn't done an internship would never be allowed to treat any patients," Zafarani said.

He added that the ruling was more a matter of custom than Jewish law. "It is simply desirable for a rabbi to be married," he said.

Avitan, believed to be the youngest Israeli named to such a rabbinic post, said he agreed with the decision and would leave his job.

"He's right. There has to be a certain order to things. It's like a fresh recruit in the army doesn't become chief of staff in a day," Avitan said in an interview.

"I will wait patiently until my match comes from heaven, and I marry," he said. (AP)

US pledge to Lebanon unity

Syria firm on Taif accord

WASHINGTON, July 15. (Kuna): President George Bush reaffirmed yesterday strong American support for the restoration of Lebanon's sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity.

In a message sent to the opening session of the 14th annual convention of the American Lebanese League (ALL), one of the largest American-Lebanese organisations meeting here, Bush emphasised that the United States will continue "to work for national reconciliation under the legitimate government of President Hiriawi."

Bush's message to the convention was considered significant because the American League has been considered a bastion for Lebanese Forces supporters in the United States and those of Gen Michel Aoun, two factions who have been at each other's necks fighting in Lebanon in recent months.

But the League, in a change of tone and approach, organised this year's convention under the title "A time to heal" and invited speakers from other Lebanese-American organisations who in the past would not have considered either attending or addressing the convention.

These include such prominent Lebanese politicians like Dr Hala Maksud, who is daughter of Malek Salam and whose uncle is Saeh Salam. Dr Maksud's acceptance of an invitation was



George Bush

considered by many participants at the convention as a first step towards healing the serious rift that has plagued Lebanese and Lebanese-Americans in the United States.

Vice-President Dan Quayle, who met with members of the League and lauded their efforts "to heal" the great Lebanese rift, also sent a message to the convention, saying:

"At times it has seemed as though being Lebanese and having unforgiving hope were more or less synonymous terms. Through strife and discord, Lebanon has learned to hope, to endure shocks and reversals, to say a new prayer each day."

Palestinian officials in Beirut, seek deal

PARIS, July 15. (Kuna): A French newspaper today shed the light on the increasing Palestinian presence in southern Lebanon, saying the PLO is now seeking a new agreement with the Lebanese authorities.

In a dispatch from Sidon, "Le Monde" newspaper said at least 400,000 Palestinians, including 10,000 Palestinian fighters loyal to President Yasser Arafat in the south, are now present in Lebanon seeking a new agreement with the authorities.

The paper said Palestinian officials want to negotiate an agreement for the protection of refugee camps and the rights of Palestinians for residence, work and free circulation.

Thanks to an agreement with the "Arab" Shiite militia in January 1989, the paper said the PLO restored its freedom of movement between Sidon and Tyre in southern Lebanon.

A senior Palestinian official told Le Monde that the policy of President Arafat is to avoid clashes with local forces, which was confirmed by local leader in Sidon, Mustafa Saad.

Saad told the paper that a new agreement with the PLO is necessary, maintaining that it should avoid a situation similar to the period before 1969 when the "duxieme bureau" of the army chased the Palestinians or before 1982 when there was a state inside a state.

Quoting independent Palestinian sources, Le Monde said PLO has at least 10,000 fighters, mainly of Fatah, in southern Lebanon, not including the militias for the protection of camps which can be in tens of thousands at a time of need.

For the first time since the 1982 Israeli invasion, the PLO fighters recently staged manoeuvres with live munition in southern Lebanon, it said.

"This came about to tell everybody: The Lebanese parties, the Israeli-sponsored South Lebanon Army, the dissident movements that we became strongest and no one can forget us," a Palestinian official said.

"This is also a message addressed to Israel, that despite the past, we can never be defeated," the official added, "after all, if we do not launch operations against Israel, what are we doing here?"

Don't hire illegal expats: warning

3 months' extension for expired permits

DIRECTOR of Immigration Intelligence at the General Immigration Affairs Department, Cnl Abdullah Bu Sakhr has warned against the sponsoring of expatriates into the country by citizens who then permit them to work for others. He added that the immigration law prohibits hiring and housing expatriates who have no legal residence permits in the country.

Immigration Intelligence keeps a close eye on all such violations in the country, and all violators will incur judicial punishment. He indicated that the law permits those with expired residence a three-month stay in order to modify their conditions or leave the country if they are not able to do so.

With respect to the stand taken by the Immigration Intelligence Department towards the housemaid problem in the country, Cnl Sakhr stated that the department follows up on problems connected with requests to cancel their residence or due to absconding. He indicated that in some cases, employers would present the department an application to deport a housemaid.

He urged all employers whose maids have absconded to report such incidents to the police station.

The department will then start its duties by cancelling the maids' residence permit and publishing names among border centres.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Premier receives

KUWAIT, July 15, (Kuna): His Highness the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah yesterday received at his diwan at Bayan Palace Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed, Interior Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah, Defence Minister Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed Al Jaber, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Abdel Rahman Abdalla Al Awadi, Minister of State for National Council Affairs Badr Jassim Al Yacoub, Minister of Public Health Abdel Wahab Suleiman Al Fawzan, Trade and Industry Minister Nassir Abdalla Al Rawdah, Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Sheikh Jaber Al Abdalla Al Jaber, Minister of Finance Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa Al Athbi, Minister of Oil Rashid Salem Al Ameri.

His Highness also received Eisa Abdel Mohsen Al Rifaa, Ibrahim Hmoud Bourisly, Jam'an Mohamed Al Hriti, Mohamed Al Bages, Ibrahim Abdalla Al Shihab, Jasser Khalid Al Jassir and Hadi Haif Al Hwaili.

Sheikh Saad also chaired a meeting of the Higher Council for Petroleum which comprises Minister of Oil Rashid Salem Al Ameri, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Abdel Rahman Al Awadi, Minister of Finance Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa Al Athbi, Trade and Industry Minister Nassir Abdalla Al Rawdah, Planning Minister Suleiman Abdel Razaq Al Mutawa, Sheikh Ahmed Abdalla Al Ahmed, Salem Abdel Latif Al Musalam, Suleiman Mohamed Shams Eddin, Abdel Mohsen Faisal Al Thwaini and Imad Mohamed Al Atiqi.

Inspection tour

KUWAIT, July 15, (Kuna): Minister of State for Housing Affairs Yehia Fahd Al Sumait yesterday toured Umm Al Haiman and Dhaher areas accompanied by director-general of the Public Housing Authority Dr Ibrahim Al Shaban.

Sumait launched his first field visit since assuming office last month to explore the citizens' problems and difficulties in the light of the remarks voiced by National Assembly members from Umm Al Haiman constituency.

The minister of state held a meeting in Umm Al Haiman, which includes 2,541 housing units, with residents of the area who expressed their concern for the expected development of their area.

Sumait expressed understanding and explained that he will discuss with authority officials how far can the development plan be implemented without affecting the inhabitants' demands and whether a compromise can be reached.

The minister of state then toured Dhaher area and listened to its inhabitants' complaints and promised to visit it again in addition to Umm Al Haiman to ensure that progress was made in solving the existing difficulties.

Omani message

KUWAIT, July 15, (Kuna): Trade and Industry Minister Nassir Abdalla Al Rawdan yesterday received a message from his Omani counterpart Salim Ben Abdalla Al Ghazali.

The message was delivered by the Omani Charge d'Affaires Khamis Ben Mohamed Abdalla Al Farisi who called on the minister today.

Weather

TEMPERATURE will be above normal with light to moderate north-westerly wind.

State of sea: Slight to Moderate

High water: 5.01 am, 5.52 pm

Low water: 11.50 am, 11.48 pm

Sunrise: 4:59 am

Sunset: 6:49 pm

Maximum temperature recorded: Kuwait: 48°C (118°F)

Ahmad: 43°C (109°F)

Falaka: 46°C (115°F)

Low water: 11.50 am, 11.48 pm

Minimum temperature expected: Kuwait: 48°C (118°F)

Ahmad: 43°C (109°F)

Falaka: 46°C (115°F)

Maximum temperature recorded: Kuwait: 39°C (102°F)

Ahmad: 34°C (93°F)

Falaka: 39°C (102°F)

Minimum temperature recorded: Kuwait: 20 per cent

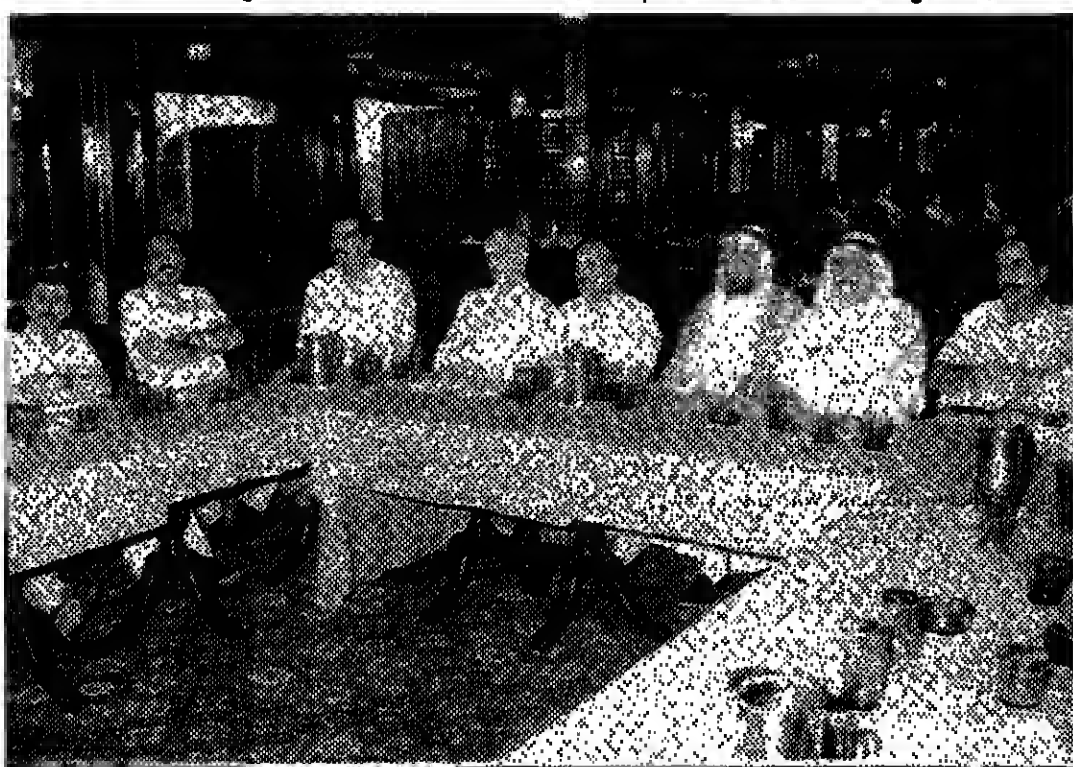
Ahmad: 20 per cent

Falaka: 29 per cent



Palestinian students honoured

Outstanding Palestinian students were honoured Saturday by the Selwan Fund at the Pearl Marzouk Restaurant in Salmiya. Mohammed Ibrahim Al Qaq, president of the fund, handed over presents to all the students and urged them to continue their studies. Also present were some local dignitaries.



Gulf Goan problems discussed with Goa CM

THE president of the Goan Welfare Society, informs all members of the society that during his recent visit to Goa he was able to personally meet and discuss the problems and wishes of the NRI Goans with the chief minister of Goa and several other ministers as per the directions of the managing committee.

During these meetings, Joe Correa highlighted in detail the peculiar circumstances of the Gulf NRIs specially in relation to the residence laws and educational facilities in the region and ardently requested the government to collectively take up the issues raised in the several memorandums earlier prepared for respective ministries.

Memorandums were submitted to minister of education, minister of industries, minister of sports and official languages, chairperson of Economic Development Corporation of Goa and to the chief minister. Copies of all memorandums were given to the chief minister for his information and follow-up.

While the chief minister was quite sympathetic in demands of the NRI Goans as were the other ministers, the Education Minister Mrs Shashikala Kakodkar was very receptive to our suggestion for the relaxation of the 'Domicile Clause' to enable students from the Gulf region to obtain seats in professional colleges and institutions and has promised her best efforts to put the matter up for the consideration of the cabinet at the earliest.

While in Goa, Correa also took up issues of concern to NRI Goans with the regional office of Air-India, specially in relation to the occasional denial of seats for Kuwait-bound passengers as well as settlement of genuine claims for loss of luggage, customs clearance facilities, and ground facilities for quick payment of airport tax etc.

CWS also informs its members that Air-India has acceded to its request for reduced rates for the unaccompanied baggage to Goa for consignments above 100 kgs and above 500 kgs.

Jordan banks under scrutiny

KUWAITI and Gulf investors are following up in detail the measures implemented by the financial authorities in Jordan on a number of banks, Batra and Jordan and the Gulf banks where Kuwaiti and Gulf capitals play a major financing role.

The recent measures involve the incorporation of these banks and the formation of temporary managing committee as well as opening up special military courts for investigation into a number of administrative and financial cases associated with previous dealings concluded by these two banks.

Disappearance

The case include the sudden and mysterious disappearance of the former board chairman of the Batra Bank Ahmad Al Jalabi, and the taking over the Jordan's Central Bank to pump liquidity into the bank in enable it to meet its important commitments to clients.

As to the Bank of Jordan and the Gulf, suspicions about possible connections of board members from both banks and involvement in the same operations are rife.

7,000 new students accepted at Paaet

DEAN of Students and Trainees Affairs at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training, Hesham Al Mutawa said that the authority will accept 7,000 new students for the two academic terms.

Interviewed by a local daily, he indicated that the authority will accept 5,000 students during the first and second semesters and will accept the balance 2,000 holders of intermediate certificates during the same semesters.

He pointed out that the first semester will witness the acceptance of at least 4,000 students which has more than 3,000 general secondary certificates holders.

Mutawa stated that the administration co-ordination office at the authority will accept applicant graduates of Kuwait Health Institute who are interested in studying nursing at the Health Sciences College.

He stressed that the authority accepts applications from expatriate students who graduated from the general secondary school scientific section and obtained more than 85 per cent grade at the Nursing Department at the Health Sciences College.

Other expatriates interested in joining other authority colleges should at least attain a 90 per cent grade, Mutawa said.

He added that the authority organises two forms of courses, the first are special courses organised upon request from government establishments and authorities and other courses held at training centres for those having general secondary certificates.

He added that the authority also offers special courses for intermediate graduates. He indicated that acceptance results will be declared after conducting personal interviews with students. On the other hand, acceptance results for new students at the authority will be announced on August 26, 1990 and Sept 2, 1990.

The authority will hold orientation courses for newly accepted students on Saturday and Sunday, Sept 15 and 16, 1990.

Insurance scheme to protect doctors

DEPUTY Director-General of the Gulf Insurance Company, Khaled Saud Al Hasan said that the ministers council decision to introduce a doctor's insurance scheme, is intended to ensure doctors rights and in order to protect them from any responsibility in addition to providing them security and stability while on duty.

Interviewed by a local daily, Hasan said that national insurance companies expressed readiness to present required insurance services for doctors based on conditions and premium rates and in keeping with their respective specialty and experience.

He stressed that such insurance will include coverage for legal responsibility resulting from doctors negligence, or errors in the performance of their duties.

He pointed out that such insurance will not cover any ill-effects or damage resulting from nuclear radiation.

He said that national insurance companies were able to obtain good insurance conditions and rates in order to provide all working doctors with insurance coverage.

He pointed out that great response has been witnessed from doctors in all sectors towards obtaining insurance coverage after the ministers council decision. Many private doctors and clinics enjoy this form of insurance, he added.

Emirates embarks on tourism promotion

EMIRATES, the international airline of the UAE, has teamed up with a leading European tour operator, as part of a drive to bring 12,000 visitors to Dubai in 1990-91.

Zurich-based Kuoni, Europe's largest long-haul travel firm, will promote Emirates' Dubai holidays in UK, along with its flights to Singapore, Bangkok, Manila, Sri Lanka and the Maldives, said Hans Haensel, Emirates' general manager market development and tours.

Haensel said Kuoni's 1991 brochure is due out in the autumn and the link-up will help Emirates attract more British visitors to Dubai. "I am going to the UK next week in speak to another six or seven tour operators who are strong in the long-haul market. We want to bring around 12,000 holiday passengers into Dubai in 1990-91, compared with last season's 7,000," he added.

"Kuoni has a 60 per cent share of the UK's long-haul tour market, with some very good clients. It is well established in Europe, with offices in many major cities, including Paris, Rome, Madrid and Vienna," said Haensel.

He said Kuoni has an impressive track record in promoting holiday destinations, such as Africa and the Caribbean, which, like Dubai, have no mass tourism market. "They specialise in individual clients, rather than large groups," he added.

Unlicensed gun

THE Criminal Court sentenced an accused to one year in jail on a charge of possessing an unlicensed gun and bullets.

The court was told that policemen were given instructions to apprehend the defendant, but when they knocked at his door he threatened to kill them with his gun. The defendant managed to flee in his car and during his attempt hit an electricity post, the fence of a public garden and passed a red traffic signal.

The court acquitted him of the charge of attempted murder and tried for possession of the unlicensed weapon and vandalism.

The sentence was upheld also by the Court of Appeal.

Masked unemployment at Health Ministry: Jader

Excess administrative staff

THE assistant undersecretary of the Ministry of Health for technical affairs Dr Tareq Al Abdul Jader has said that there is an excess of staff in the administration department of the ministry specially guards and clerks, though this is not reflected in accountants or legal staff. "We suggested re-qualifying surplus Kuwaiti manpower through training courses at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training," the official said and added "this experiment was applied in Al Adhan health area."

The ministry brought several clerks from that area and offered a typewriting course to them. Those who passed the course were employed as typists and those who failed were considered as excess manpower. The Civil Service Commission was notified of the failed clerks and it was recommended that the commission not send any clerks to the ministry who does not possess the Secondary School Certificate.

"This is the first step to develop the performance of administrative staff of the ministry," the official said. He stressed that there is masked unemployment in the ministry, and ways and means are being addressed to redeploy such manpower in other ministries according to their needs.

He added that the general trend now is to bring trained

specialised manpower and more than 60 per cent of the Ministry of Health's budget is allocated for payments to such staff. Snuffing out the good manpower and getting rid of the excess will give the ministry more opportunities to appoint qualified manpower, he said.

Dr Abdul Jader has demanded that the CSC offer new grades in the Ministry of Health to appoint the required employees and to develop its services. He added that the ministry still suffers a shortage in medical and nursing staff.

He revealed that the ministry completed the construction of many health centres but they have not been opened due to shortage in manpower. He added that the ministry wrote to the Council of Ministers about its needs for new workers in the new budget. "We want to be allowed to at least replace employees who have resigned, died, retired or fired," he said.

Commenting on new appointments in nursing, Abdul Jader said they will cover only the num-

ber of nurses who resigned. He referred the increasing number of nurses who resign in the fact that some nurses work in Kuwait for a limited period for experience before shifting to the USA or Canada. He added that the ministry is now aware of this problem so it has been contracting nurses from other countries. He added that what is most vital is to encourage the appointment of nurses from the local market.

He pointed out that the Ministry of Health lost some consultant doctors after allowing them to open private clinics, and said he expected that more private clinics will be opened because the Kuwaiti doctors who meet conditions will open their own clinics. But he described the private sector as one that complements the ministry and is not a competitor. He also called for strict control on private clinics.

Speaker receives

KUWAIT, July 15, (Kuna): Speaker of the National Council Abdel Aziz Fahd Al Masaeed yesterday received in audience Minister of Communications Habib Jawhar Hayat, Minister of Finance Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa Al Athbi, Municipality Minister Fahd Abdalla Al Hassawi, Minister of Defence Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed, Secretary-General of the National Council Farouq Al Omar, Municipality's director-general Sheikh Sabah Jaber Al Ali and Abdel Majid Al Gharahally.



Children line up with garbage bags to clean up the beaches.

Protect beaches campaign commences July 18: Hadi

Several natural reserves planned

GENERAL Secretary of the Environment Protection Council, Ibrahim Mohammed Hadi said that two natural reserves were established by the council with the co-operation of the National Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources. He added that the council is conducting other environmental research which will be implemented during the coming five-year plan. He indicated that the plan envisages several natural reserves due to their importance in preserving the natural habitat in Kuwait.

Regarding natural reserves already implemented, Hadi said that the council recently established a natural reserve area in Doha located between the Entertainment City and Doha prison with a total area of 4.5 square kilometres. He added that such reserves will be left to natural conditions without the use of any outside factors like irrigation. The reserve will be monitored by the council on a year-round basis.

Another natural area was established in Jahra for birds with an area of 2.5 square kilometres.

On the other hand, Hadi added that the fifth beaches protection campaign will be organised as of July 18, 1990. The campaign will take Shaah Public

Garden as a start point at seven in the morning under the patronage of Dr Abdul Wahab Al Fouzan, head of the Environment Protection Council.

He indicated that this campaign is aimed at enlightening residents and citizens on the importance of environmental protection. The council formed a special work team to design programmes for the implementation of the campaign consisting of several lectures and symposiums held at summer clubs, youth centres and clubs of the Touristic Enterprises Company.

The campaign will be organised with the co-operation of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour, Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, Kuwait Municipality, Touristic Enterprises Company, the Ministry of Information, the Science Club and the Environment Protection Department.

The campaign opening party will include contests and prizes for winners among participants. He added that the council encourages youth and children to effectively participate in such campaigns. He pointed out that the campaign will witness more than 28 symposiums and lectures delivered by a number of officials.

Missing woman pilgrim now in Sabah Hospital

WELL-INFORMED sources have rejected what has been declared by some officials that Hajiya Fathiya Ali Faraj, an Egyptian was missing after the Mo'esseem tunnel tragedy and was never found. Sources rejected a statement made by one of the local dailies as saying that Hajiya Fathiya died in the accident.

The sources stressed that Hajiya Fathiya who was a member of a Kuwaiti caravan in the pilgrimage is alive and that she is currently being hospitalised at Sabah Hospital after returning to the country by land.

Report

A hospital report on the health condition of Hajiya Fathiya received by Sabah Hospital said that she is now being treated for bronchopneumonia and high blood pressure.

The owner of the caravan Hajiya Fathiya travelled with, Ahmad Al Dowaihi said that she lost consciousness while performing Haj rituals on the first day of Eid Al Adha. Fathiya was transferred by an ambulance to Aiyad Hospital without being registered among the hospital computer patients list. The caravan tried to inform the Kuwaiti medical delegation but was unsuccessful. Hajiya Fathiya has no relatives in Kuwait and is working at the Ministry of Public Health.

Advanced care for blind

THE chairman of Kuwait Society for the Blind Hamad Al Khaled has said that the society's administration is keen to provide advanced care for the blind.

In an interview with a local daily, the official said that the past years have witnessed a quantum leap in march of blind people particularly towards upgrading mental and movement ability.

The official called for the opening of new avenues for the blind in the ministries and other national institutions.

He called on the Ministry of Education to adopt the efforts of blind teachers and open the door for them to join the general education corps.

On the other hand, the official disclosed that the society will takeover its new premises from the Ministry of Public Works soon.

Stay away from illicit sex, travellers warned

Seminar on Aids

THE director of the health awareness unit at the school health department of the Ministry of Health Dr Imthith Al Neshar has said that according to the World Health Organisation (WHO) the number of people carrying the acquired

immune deficiency syndrome (Aids) virus ranged between five to ten million throughout the world.

She told a seminar organised by the Bayader Al Salam Society, that official Aids cases reported

to WHO up to last April accounted to about 254,000 cases distributed in 165 countries.

She addressed those travelling abroad to keep away from illicit sexual relations. She pointed out that sexual deviation was the main reason behind this problem

which has created dangerous social and economic problems.

She clarified that in the early stages victims of this fatal disease may show symptoms of low fever, muscle aches, headache, cough and rash.

She disclosed that about 90 per

cent of people with Aids cases which had been reported in 1982 had died.

Apart from illicit sexual relations, the lecturer said the disease might be caused by blood transfusion and acupuncture.

Legal Clinic

Should you have a legal, labour-related or similar problem, write to: Legal Clinic, Arab Times, P.O. Box 2270, 13023, Safat, Kuwait, or fax your questions on Fax No. 4847495. Our Kuwaiti lawyer, Khaled Taher, replies to readers' queries.

WE have a worker on residence permit under Article No. 18. He will complete his three years period with us in November 1990. He is insisting on abandoning us and work for another employer. Can he leave us five months earlier with or without notice and work elsewhere? If he does, what is our responsibility supposed to be? He entered Kuwait in 1987.

We thank you and appreciate your comments.

Abdullah Khalaf Mohd. Al Fahad

THE Minister of Social Affairs, on July 14, 1990, amended the social affairs resolution No. 87, 1989, saying that a transfer of residence can be granted after completing two years service. Under the new rule, the transfer can be granted by you.

If the employee remains on your sponsorship, you cannot allow him to work elsewhere. If he holds your sponsorship but insists on working somewhere else, you'll be held responsible for him. To cover yourself, you have to take legal action and file a case against him as a "run-away" in the police station. It is against the immigration and residence law to work for an employer other than the sponsor during the period of sponsorship.

I HAVE been provided with a fully-furnished apartment at a monthly rent of KD500 and a company-owned car for my official as well as personal use.

The above benefits are provided by my employer according to the contract of appointment given to me.

Please advise me as to how these two benefits are to be added to my wages for calculating the end of service indemnity as per the Kuwait Labour Law was applicable to the private sector.

IF the rent has been mentioned in the contract, it will be counted as part of it. The car is considered given for transportation during employment, and it will not be added to the salary.

If the rent is considered as a part of the salary, the end of service benefits will be calculated, with the rental amount included.

I MUST write and thank you for the advice you gave my colleagues and me in the recent Legal Clinic.

The query regarding settling allowance, mid-term flight, annual rents etc brought a very quick reply from our employer. He checked with the Kuwait Labour Law office and verified your advice and included the extras in our final gratuity.

I thank you on behalf of twelve members of staff for your prompt advice.

I AM glad that I could be of assistance to our readers. The purpose of my column is to clarify any queries they may have about laws prevailing in the country. If a problem falls within the purview of the law, I'll willingly help you sort it out.

I WAS a maintenance worker in a well-known company. I joined in August 1989 on a one-year contract. I was locally hired and

suddenly terminated due to an argument. Last April, the company gave me the termination paper. I asked them to complete my account and give me my fare back home. They refused, so I filed a complaint in the Social Affairs Ministry. We had two hearings and they did not show up. After a week, a company representative talked to the Social Affairs Ministry and agreed to give the things I had asked for and the ministry did not send my complaint to the court.

The last hearing was in May. Again, they did not come so the Social Affairs Ministry forwarded the complaint to the Ministry of Justice. Without my knowledge, my employer cancelled my visa in April. My next hearing is in September. Will I be penalised for the cancellation of my visa? It was not my fault.

YOU have already approached the Social Affairs Ministry, asking them to transfer the case to court. Meanwhile, the judiciary will be in recess until September. All cases will be heard only when the courts re-open.

If possible, try to finalise the matter now, in co-operation with the social affairs department, and if you don't succeed, go to court.

In the meantime, you can get a certificate from the Ministry of Justice for residence. Take the certificate and submit it to the immigration department officials who will give you a temporary permit to stay until the next court hearing. This procedure must be repeated to renew the residence permit until the final court hearing.

50 fils per head charge for imported sheep

By Salem Al Wawan

A NUMBER of sheep importers were lately surprised to find that they have to pay a charge of 50 fils on each sheep they import from outside the country.

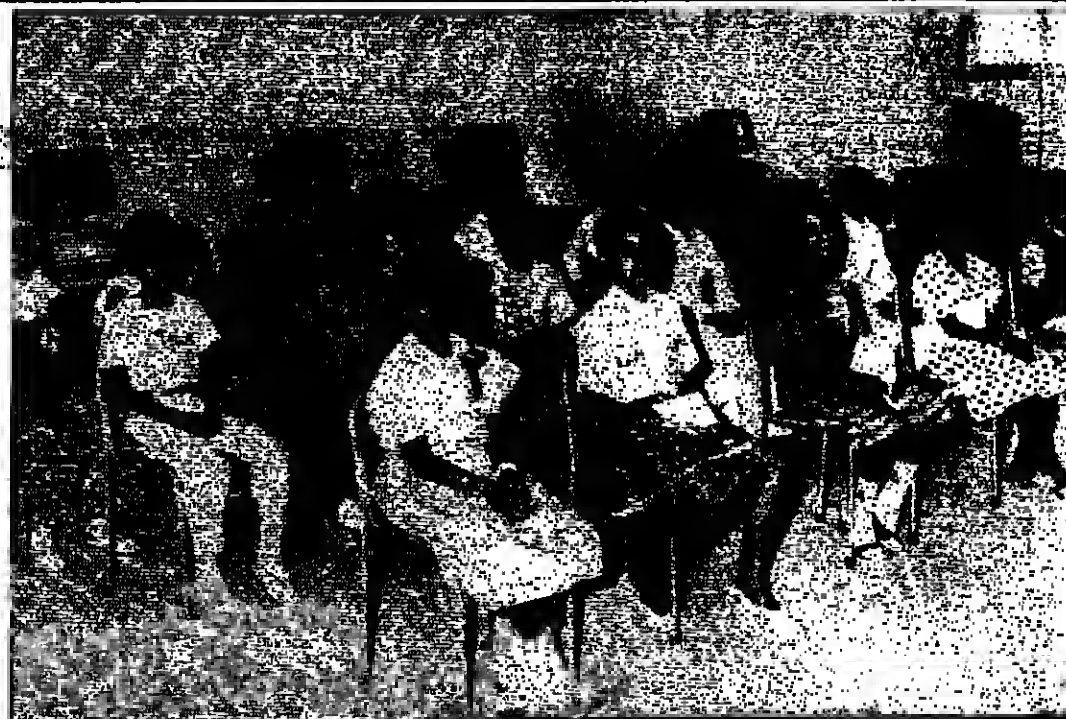
A number of sheep importers stated that the new decision was generalised upon all sea, land gates and border centres.

The General Customs Department stressed that it has nothing to do with such charges.

After consulting the General Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources, which claimed responsibility for such fees, it stated that importers should pay a 50 fils charge on each small animal imported from outside the country excluding GCC states and a 100 fils charge on each big animal imported like camels, horses, cows and others.

Refugee visit

A DELEGATION representing the women's committee at the Social Reform Society in Kuwait has left the country for Jordan to visit the Palestinian refugee camps, within the framework of the charity and Ihsan project which the committee embarked on this summer.



Computer course for children

The director of the Social Service and Continuous Education at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training Ghloom Al Attar delivered the opening speech at the beginning of a computer course organised by the Paaet for Kuwaiti children aged 9 to 12 for the first time at the training centre of the commercial studies college for girls in Hawail.

Speaking on behalf of the acting director-general of Paaet, Attar gave a brief account of the intent of the programme and the possibilities mobilised to ensure its success.

He stressed that Paaet's concern and hard endeavours to provide all age categories with the

chance to acquire experience, skills and knowledge.

The administrative supervisor of the course then gave an introduction to the course in which he said involved theoretical studies and practical training given to the 120 participants in morning and evening session three times a week for a whole month.

He added that the course would train participants in how to operate computers, enter working commands, and use related software, adding that students participating in the course will be divided up into three categories based on the age and comprehension factors.

From the courts

Man apprehended for petrol fire

A MAN has been apprehended for allegedly throwing a bottle of petrol into a video shop in Sabahiya and setting it on fire.

The owner of the shop, Mohsen Al Ajmi said that his shop had been opened a day previously and he had spent an amount of KD125,000 on decor and other necessities.

The culprit was arrested on the basis of his car number plate provided by the owner of the shop.

Lankan moonshiner charged: Detectives of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) arrested a Sri Lankan national on charges of manufacturing and selling illicit alcohol.

The accused was approached by an undercover agent who purchased a bottle of alcohol with marked currency. A subsequent search of the accused's premises resulted in the recovery of 13 bottles, including distilling paraffin.

The accused said that he used to obtain the liquor from a Thai national and sold each bottle for KD8.

Investigations are in progress and the accused has been remanded to custody.

Bootleggers nabbed: Security forces of the Salmiya Police Centre arrested a four-member gang on charges of bootlegging spurious alcohol. The security police had been on the trail of the gang for a four-month period.

According to informed sources a number of Indian customers who had imbibed the alcohol had been admitted to the hospital suffering from various forms of poisoning.

The arrest of the gang followed the complaint of an Indian lady who was attacked and suffered a broken arm.

Police raided the apartment of the accused and found them to be inebriated. They also discovered alcohol and other distilling equipment.

On investigations, the culprits confessed that they had adulterated the alcohol with acids which caused poisoning among the customers. They further confessed that they sold each bottle for KD20.

The entire gang has been referred to investigation authorities.

Road accidents: Police reported nine road accidents during the last 24 hours in various parts of Kuwait; one occurred in the Capital, one in Ahmadi and five in Jahra Governorate, including a five-year-old boy who was injured after being knocked down by a car. A motorcyclist was also injured when he collided with a car in the Sulabiya area.

3 years for forgery: The Criminal Court sentenced a man to three years in jail for forging the signature of a government official. The court heard that the man had applied for transferring the sponsorship of his Indian

driver to the name of his wife. The employee told the accused that the application must be signed by the director of the Immigration Department at Kuwait City, Col. Abdullah Al Ruwaih.

He then returned after two days with the same application on which the director's signature appeared. However the employee, suspicious, took the application to the director of the department to make sure that the signature was his.

As expected, the director denied having signed the application and the man was referred for questioning.

KD200 fine for traffic killing: The Traffic Court ordered a man with the name of Husain to pay a KD200 fine and released him from the deliberate murder charge.

The man was accused of killing a girl who was crossing the street. After traffic investigations it was clear the convict driver was only driving his vehicle with a speed estimated at 30 kilometres per hour. After running over the girl, the accused carried the child and drove her to the nearest hospital where she died due to a broken skull and bleeding in the brain area. The court saw that the accused was not driving recklessly in his vehicle and that he was a skilled driver but, the girl crossed the street through some other parked cars and the accused couldn't see the victim and couldn't stop the car at the right time.

Ministries to prepare performance programmes

KUWAIT, July 15. (Kuna) HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saud Al Abdullah Al Sabah today presided over the weekly Cabinet session.

Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Abdul Rahman Al Awadi said following the meeting that HH Sheikh Saud briefed the council on the outcome of last week's visit to the country of Pakistani Premier Benazir Bhutto.

HH the Crown Prince and Premier called on the ministers to furnish the cabinet with proposals and plans related to the work programmes in their respective ministries, in order to upgrade the performance and improve the services within each one of them and to prepare for the government policy programme to be delivered at the National Council on the government's plan of action for the next four years.

He also related to the various issues and problems of concern to citizens and emphasised the need to realise practical solutions to them, asking ministers in this regard to make lists of these issues and determine ones of top priority.

For his part, Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Sabah reported to the council on the visit last week by Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, during which talks were held on bolstering bilateral relations and the positive developments in the Iraqi-Iranian peace negotiations.

Defence Minister Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed also briefed the council on his talks with inspector-general of the Libyan armed forces Col Mustafa Al Kharroubi last week.

Oil Minister Rashid Al Ameri spoke of his recent meeting in Jeddah with his counterparts of the Arab Gulf Opec members, within the framework of consultations before the July 25 Opec ministerial conference in Geneva.



Expatriates pleased with changes in Labour Law

Visa racketeering may end

By Lima Al Khalafawi

Arab Times staff SATURDAY'S amendments in labour regulations was received with a sigh of relief by a wide cross-section of people working in the private sector.

The ministerial decision went into immediate effect enabling employees in the private sector to change from one sponsor to another after two years instead of three and others from the government sector to the private sector and vice versa without any condition attached except the approval of the two parties.

An opinion poll conducted by the Arab Times showed that the majority of expats were satisfied and even excited with these changes.

"This confusion created by the three-year stipulation is over and people now can change from one company to another because of the newly offered flexibility by the ministerial decree," said Julio Renando, who has been working in Kuwait for seven years.

He added that a lot of his friends were forced to go outside the country and come back just to change to another sponsor.

Another group of Arab workers gathering in front of a popular cafe were thoroughly reading a newspaper and congratulating each other. Ahmed Abdulmagali who works with a large contracting company said

that the old three-year stipulation was "costing people a lot of money and created a black-market in visas that went up to KD750."

Tahan Huleem, a technician who has been working for nine years in Kuwait said that he sent a telegram to his brother yesterday informing him about the new labour law amendments. Huleem added that his brother left Kuwait last year because he was not able to comply with the three-year stipulation.

Shashi Kumar who has been working at Atlas Jewellery for seven years expressed optimism that these new amendments will activate the market within the coming months.

A. Oudeh, construction contractor who has been working in the sector for 18 years told the Arab Times that labour mobility was hurt by the old labour regulations and caused labourers to demand higher salaries that indirectly caused construction prices to shoot up 26 per cent within one year.

R. Hamawi who is a part-time secretary in one of the companies said that she will start changing her dependent residence to visa No. 18. "I postponed the changing of my visa to a work permit because of the three-year stipulation. Now there is no barrier to sort out my papers with the concerned authority," she said.

Sameer Ibrahim welcomed the new decision because it helps create a free atmosphere for labourers particularly those who suffered from the former decision.

He thanked the minister for his decision which he said is now considered a gift to all labourers in the country on the occasion of Eid Al Adha.

Labourers now have the opportunity to select the adequate job without any external pressures. The decision also creates healthy competition for jobs.

Hasan Abdullah said that the decision will serve the labour market in Kuwait. He pointed out that in addition to giving labourers the opportunity to select the right job, the new decision is good for employers who seek to employ better qualified labour. He said that the decision has put into consideration the length of the period required to transfer between two jobs. Two years is adequate, he said.

Abdullah Jaber on the other hand believes that the new decision will combat trading in residence permits which began to spread in the country in the last decade.

Other labourers with already expired working permits hoped future decisions will drop all charges for expired permits.

85m gallons from new wells

Iraq water project finalised

THE Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) has recently finalised evaluating technical and financial offers submitted for the supply of water from Iraq to Kuwait.

Speaking to a local daily, Dr Hmoud Al Rqobah, Kuwait's Minister of Electricity and Water said that according to these deliberations, the ministry will select the consulting bureau who will undertake the design and supervision services during the implementation phase.

The ministry has assigned a local contractor to undertake the related survey as well as soil research with the aim of providing the consultant with the relevant data as early as possible.

Rqobah said that electricity bills should be settled on time, failing which, the ministry reserves the right to cut the current if the consumer failed to pay dues within 21 days as of the value date of the invoice.

Speaking of the airconditioning system at schools of the Ministry of Education, he said that this project comprises two phases. The first covered airconditioning of kindergarten and primary stages which had been completed at a cost of about KD 8,116,500, while the second phase which covers the intermediate and secondary schools will begin shortly and is estimated to cost around KD 13.8 million. The added load to the power network after completing the airconditioning network is estimated at about 115 m. watts.

Statistics indicate that the annual demand for electricity will increase between five to six per cent based on the electrical load recorded in 1988/1989. By the year 2005 AD the load is expected to reach up to 9727 m. watts and consequently the ministry in that year intends to generate about 11672 m. watts.

Study

Speaking of the GCC interconnection electricity transmission lines, the minister said that in 1989 a Canadian consulting bureau had been empowered to undertake necessary studies. The study is expected to be completed in November 1990.

Meanwhile, the official ruled out the possibility of setting up an Arab nuclear energy operation, clarifying that this was controversial following the first system set up in the USA in the 1950's. He added that after the Soviet Union Chernobyl disaster, opposition to this kind of energy had increased considerably everywhere.

The minister rejected the concept that solar energy could constitute an alternative source of power generation and said that relevant research undertaken in co-operation with the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research had proved that solar energy in this respect was futile.

Meanwhile, the official said that efforts are under way to enhance the supply of brackish water from 120 million imperial gallons per day to about 205 million imperial gallons per day during the next few years. The increase is expected to be realised through expanding the sources at Sulabiya, Shagaya, Um Qadir and Wafra areas.

He added that the ministry's five-year-plans include among others,

the setting up of a new power station and water distilling station at Al Subbiya Area. Additionally, the ministry has begun modernising of North and South Al Shuaiba Power Station.

Rqobah further said that the ministry is striving to increase the output of drinking water to meet the projected increase in the country's population. The expected increase for drinking water is estimated to be around 97 per cent during 1990-1995. The water distillation station produces about 254 million gallons daily, while the maximum water consumption per day amounted to 155 million gallons this year, Rqobah said.

Wells

Meanwhile, Sara Ahmad Omar, head of the technical studies and development section at the underground water department at the ministry said that the ministry is currently digging new wells with an estimated production capacity of 85 million gallons per day.

She indicated that the salinity of underground water in Kuwait is considered relatively high compared to other states. She attributed this to the distance which water travels underground from the south western direction to north-east before settling in its natural storage areas.

She added that the desert environment, coupled with the particular nature of the weather of the country in addition to the nature of geological underground layers are factors that contribute to increasing water salinity.

She indicated that the salinity rate of underground saline water ranges between 3,000 and 6,000 parts in one million gallons. Meanwhile, the rate of salinity for fresh water is between 300-1,000 parts per million.

Sara stressed that there are no arid wells in Kuwait, but rather a decrease in the level of underground water, adding that such wells would be economically unfeasible.

She said that the ministry has a plan to monitor the decline in water levels. Such a plan depends on regular monitoring for water levels, expected decline and the salinity rate during production.

She indicated that the ministry preserves the continuity of water production by digging and establishing wells for the long term. She added that various underground water wells are being operated to maximum capacity during summer and a number of these wells production during winter due to consumption decline.

She pointed out that the cost of digging wells depends on the depth of layers carrying water. The first well in Kuwait was established in 1941, Sulabiya, Um Qadir, Wafra and Shagaya wells in Kuwait are considered the highest in production capacity estimated at 60 million gallons daily.

Regarding current projects, she said that the ministry is now supervising the digging of new saline water wells in Arafat and Kabad areas with a total production of 35 million gallons daily.

New Kheitan bachelors face problems

AL SEYASSAH has learnt that a large number of bachelors living in five buildings in New Kheitan are facing a serious human problem due to lack of electricity and water.

The problem occurred when the old landlord who sold the building withdrew the insurance

money deposited at the Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW). This resulted in the ministry cutting power supplied to these buildings.

Reliable sources said that the new landlord warned the tenants to pay a monthly rent of KD 60

per room instead of KD 40 they were previously paying, failing which they would have a very hot summer.

Sources added that there are over 150 bachelors living in these buildings and most of them are Egyptians. Some of them have sent a cable to Farwaniya Gover-

nor, Sheikh Ahmed Humoud Al Jaber who directed relevant authorities to address the issue promptly. However, the problem is still to be solved, sources said.

However, several people are querying as to how supply could have been cut off from five buildings without a judicial order.

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

IF a woman once makes up her mind to marry a man, nothing but instant flight can save him — W. Somerset Maugham, English writer (1874-1965).

Ethiopia relief convoys

Drivers run fire gauntlet

(CSM): Truck driver Dehre Yohannes rested his forehead on the steering wheel. "I am dead tired," he sighed. But for Yohannes, on contract to the Relief Society of Tigre (REST), there was to be no respite.

The convoy in which he was travelling had ground to a halt in the darkness. One of the 15 trucks had bogged down in a dry river bed. It might take hours of hard work before the drivers could extricate it.

The approach of dawn lent urgency to their labours. Once daylight came, the truck would be an easy target for the Ethiopian air force. Their marauding MiG fighters regularly bombed relief convoys bringing emergency grain to the starving people of Tigre province.

The famine that has blighted northern Ethiopia is a backdrop for daily life-or-death dramas such as this. Every night caravans of ancient 10-ton vehicles snake over a desolate landscape of dusty plains and precipitous mountains. Men fight for the honour of driving the lead truck, for there is the additional treachery of land mines planted along the way.

This crusade to save peasant farming families from otherwise inevitable starvation is run by the Tigrean People's Liberation Front. They are rebels fighting to end the despotic Marxist rule of Ethiopian leader Mengistu Haile Mariam.

The punishing schedule calls for a round trip of six nights to offload the sacks of grain and return across the border to neighbouring Sudan. After one day of rest, the cycle starts again.

I had the opportunity to witness the drivers' courage first-hand when I travelled through Tigre with the convoys. Many truckers, who drive 11 hours a night without a break, volunteer their services free. I asked Yohannes, on a monthly salary of \$83, if he was ever frightened.

"Of course. If a MiG drops a bomb, you're dead. There's no escape. But what can you do? Our people must eat."

A miseria of hunger has settled over Tigre province where, in some places, up to 90 per cent of last year's harvest withered on the stalk when the rains failed. Aid workers have put the number of people at risk from starvation at 2.2 million.

Through REST's valiant efforts, 800,000 have been fed on basic rations by purchasing grain in surplus areas with money supplied by aid agencies such as Oxfam and Save the Children Fund. The cross-border operation from the Sudan brings in another 13,000 tons a month. But these supplies reach only two-thirds of those who are hungry.

The difficult choice of who gets fed and who goes hungry is made by the people themselves in "baito" meetings. The grass-roots accountability ensures that food is distributed where the need is greatest. An aid worker told me how one family had asked to be struck off the distribution list even though his children were weak from hunger. The children of his neighbour, who was not on the list, were hungrier, he said.

There has been only a limited response to the crisis from the international community, where opinion has been dulled by "compassion fatigue".

Ironically, disinterest in the plight of the Tigreans may stem from their effort to do everything right. They have not migrated in search of food in the towns or to refugee camps in the Sudan so that they can plant seeds after the June rains. They are also busy maintaining vital water and soil conservation schemes.

In 1983 Western governments mounted a massive relief operation that shipped 1.7 million tons of food. The trigger was television footage of tens of thousands of rail-thin men, women, and children begging to be fed. No such heartrending images have emerged from this latest famine, which requires only 650,000 tons of food for both Tigre and the next-door province of Eritrea. This provokes the hypothesis that humanitarian reaction comes only after catastrophe.

There is also the problem of communication. Few reporters have ventured into Tigre, an assignment that holds inherent dangers. So it is not widely known that the famine is largely war-induced.

The Tigreans' 15-year rebellion against the systematic genocide perpetrated against them by the government has erupted into a full-scale war. Mengistu has responded with a scorched earth policy. Until the army was driven from Tigre province in February 1989, troops deliberately burned crops, slaughtered draft animals and destroyed farming tools.

REST estimates that this wholesale destruction was directly responsible for 61 per cent of crop deficits. If left to pursue their basically sound agricultural practices, the Tigreans could be self-sufficient in food because they would be allowed to accumulate surpluses from years when there is good rainfall.

Tigre is at the epicentre of Ethiopian culture. People were farming here 2,000 years ago, long before agriculture took hold in Europe. It has one of the most important pools in the world for genes of durum wheat, barley, sorghum, linseed, finger millet, and chick peas. Farmers in the United States benefit by about \$150 million a year from a barley variety originally collected in Ethiopia.

But this agricultural treasure trove has been plundered by Mengistu. In a country where the annual per capita income is \$93, some 84 per cent of farmers' cash income is consumed in state taxes. This is not an incentive to produce.

Some food is trickling north from the government side of the fighting since an agreement of safe passage was concluded. Even so, it is only a fraction of what is needed. But Western governments, confusing humanitarian needs with political ones, have virtually ignored REST. They do not want to offend Mengistu by working with the rebels, they say. It is time this perception was corrected.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1644 — Parliamentarian forces take York from Royalists in England.
- 1647 — Mananiello, leader of Naples revolt against Spain, is assassinated.
- 1809 — Revolt breaks out in Upper Peru against Spanish authority.
- 1855 — Britain's Parliament establishes responsible government throughout Australian states, except for Western Australia.
- 1918 — Russia's Tsar Nicholas II and his family are executed by the Bolsheviks.
- 1921 — Greek forces defeat Turks at Kutania in Turkey.
- 1925 — First elected Parliament in Iraq opens in Baghdad.
- 1941 — German forces pierce Soviet Stalin line and take Smolensk in World War II.
- 1945 — First atomic bomb is exploded over desert in New Mexico, USA during World War II, heralding start of atomic age.
- 1949 — Chinese Nationalists organize Supreme Council under Chiang Kai-Shek which begins to move forces to Taiwan.
- 1951 — Belgium's King Leopold III abdicates and is succeeded by his son Baudouin.
- 1966 — India's prime minister Indira Gandhi ends visit to Moscow with promise of \$1 billion in Soviet aid for her country.
- 1969 — US Apollo 11 spacecraft is launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida, to attempt first manned landing on Moon.
- 1988 — Police set up roadblocks outside Cape Town, South Africa, prison holding African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela.
- 1989 — Campus dispute in Abkhazia in Soviet republic of Georgia leaves 11 dead and 127 injured.

Mosques become rallying point

Algerian condition worsens

ALGIERS: (CSM): On Friday afternoons the narrow streets of Bab El Oued, the densely populated working-class quarter of the Algerian capital, are full to overflowing with young men who come to pray.

Many wear the kamis, or long robe, of their Islamic faith, while others are in jeans. Motionless under the strong mid-day sun, the worshippers are silent as the voice of their imam wafts from loudspeakers.

In a country where political organisations other than the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN) were banned until last year, the mosques have become a rallying point for growing numbers of Algerians, dissatisfied with the broken economy and political atrophy.

The fundamentalists want strict application of Islamic law, which opposing Algerians fear would mean a system as autocratic and economically inept as the one-party, state socialism many Algerians are trying to shed.

Concern

Concern about the consequences of growing support for fundamentalists has spread to neighbouring North African countries and to Europe.

In Tunisia, leaders of banned Islamic parties are calling for a phase-out of the country's well-developed tourism industry; in Morocco last month fundamentalists, most of whose leaders are in prison, staged large demonstrations.

Just how strong support is for the Algerian fundamentalists will be tested now that fundamentalists are the big winners in the first multiparty plebiscite since Algeria won its independence from France in 1962. The June 12 local elections saw the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), Algeria's principal Islamic party, emerge as one of the country's two strongest political forces, with the entrenched FLN of President's Chadli Benjedid.

Observers believe that the Islamic movement's attraction will remain strong as long as the problems that have led to its recent rise — a disastrous economy and galloping population growth — do not improve.

"You see all the young men who have no job and spend the day tempted by trouble," says Rida Mokhtari, a student at Algiers Central University. "For them, Islam is a refuge."

Another student, who wears Western-style clothing and studies computer programming, says she voted for the FIS because its leaders are "loyal and honest." For 27 years, she says, "the FLN has filled its own pockets by robbing the country and making us poor. Who but the FIS is strong enough to clean out the corruption and get the country moving again?"

An Arab-French amalgam — hitiste, or "he holds up the walls" — has been coined here to describe the thousands of jobless young men who spend their day idly leaning against a wall. Officially unemployment tops 20 per cent, but among the young it is much higher. In a country where two-thirds of the population is under 25, and the population continues to grow 3 per cent annually, despair for the future is palpable.

With national productivity regressing, collectivized agriculture in shambles, and overcrowding rampant in the cities that were to be a modern Algeria's showcase, Islam appears to many as the only way out.

Fundamentalists

But some observers here insist that the FIS is speaking with a moderate voice only until it takes power.

"I got to know the fundamentalists while in prison," says Said Saadi, a prominent political leader now heading RCD, a political party that



Chadli Benjedid

supports democratic reform including full separation of church and state. "If the FIS comes to power, the next day it will be the sharia," or application of Islamic law.

Not everyone agrees, however. "Algeria is Sunni Islam, which is quite different

from the Shiite branch of Iran," says Abdelkader Djeghloul, a sociologist and historian. Iranian leader Ayatollah "Khomeini benefited from a pyramid-like structure that allowed him to give orders to his mullahs throughout the country. It's too quickly forgotten that the Islamic movement in Algeria is more complex," he says. "The FIS itself is divided, and there are other Islamic organisations that don't accept the FIS. Our traditions don't allow a monolithic party of the church."

Others say the major threat of the fundamentalists is that they could repeat mistakes akin to those of the past, when revolutionary leaders without experience imposed a collectivist economic system.

The ideology they preach is not capable of running a modern country and leading the economy out of catastrophe," says economist Mimouni. "More people are realising that, but it's still attractive when they simply say they will end unemployment and make the country productive."

The fundamentalists see themselves as the only group with the moral authority to inspire an Islamic population that has lost confidence in its leaders and the future.

"For a long time now the Algerian people have been on strike, they don't have the inspiration to be productive," says Abassi Madani, spokesman for the FIS. "Our main task is to lead the people out of this confidence crisis."

In a clear reference to the corruption charges surrounding the FLN, Madani says "unlike others, we are not going to sow seeds so we ourselves eat, but so that others eat." Among the "seeds" he would sow are lower taxes, military spending cuts, and more private initiative.

The night of women to work is being threatened, Ms Akrouf says. "In the mosques they tell the young unemployed men that women are stealing their jobs. In the schools, there is a growing tendency to use the promotion system to the disadvantage of girls."

Such challenges come on top of the institutionalized hardships presented by Algerian law. In the family code, men have an unquestioned right to seek divorce, while a woman's right is subject to a list of conditions. Property and inheritance laws favour men, and women must obey their husbands.

With the right to vote, women could constitute a powerful political force. But with an electoral law that allows one voter to cast ballots for up to three absent voters, women often find their husbands or brothers voting for them.

Yet Akrouf says the struggle of Algerian women is not principally with legislation, but with mentalities. "Tunisia has had a more progressive family code than ours for some time, but that doesn't mean problems are any fewer for women there," she says.

Many women say it's a good thing we have this fundamentalism, because that's what got us to organise," says Sahadja Akrouf, a school teacher and officer in Algiers' Association for the Emancipation of Women. "That may be, but the challenges they present are getting worse," she adds, especially with the country's economic crisis to back up their cause.

The world is a condemnable act. Ban

Indian Prime Minister V. P. Singh, last week lifted the 8-month ban on visits by representatives of Amnesty International to investigate alleged human rights abuses in the states of Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab. Singh reiterated his government's stand saying that any democratic government should be fully conscious of its obligations towards the fulfilment of the human rights aspiration of its people. For this bold step, the prime minister of India needs appreciation, but there are many among men who sit high but are against the award of justice to people on the street.

The recent call of Rajiv, opposition party leader, urging youth wing of Congress (I) to prevent Amnesty International representatives entering India to investigate alleged human rights abuses by taking to the streets, stage a sit-in at the airport so as not to let the Amnesty International investigation enter the country is quite shocking. Rajiv's statement is detested by the people who work against the infringement of basic human rights. As a democratic man, I believe he respects the basic right of life, but speaks forth with venom to appease the masses, which is a disservice of greatest proportions to the cause of humanity.

Equality, liberty, freedom of speech and action are undemocratic rights of a free man. V. P. Singh's action is in line with the aspirations of human rights activists who oppose brutality and repression by security forces. When a democratic government unleashes a force of terror against its own people, the "junta" type action is alien to the very fabric of a democratic country. Most of the people are indifferent to such brutality because keeping quiet is the safest route, but extrajudicial actions are not to be condoned; people ought to react to make their opinion known.

In absence of watchdog bodies like London-based Amnesty International, the unrestrained arms of law-enforcing agencies, on the pretext of restoring peace, dye their hands with blood of innocent masses. Mahatma Gandhi very rightly once said that liberty and democracy become unholy when their hands are dyed red with innocent blood.

Amnesty International activities are not character certificates, as Rajiv puts it, neither can they be termed as interference in the internal affairs of the country, but devoid of such bodies, the aggression tends to become naked. Repression coupled with force wreaks injustice on innocent sufferers.

Sacrifice

It is sad to see that there seems to be an international alliance of die-hard democrats from countries with traditional democracy as the way of life who are ready to sacrifice their long-standing slogans of democratic ideals to buy in a shroud of secrecy the excessive use of force by

their governments. Amnesty reports that harsh repression in Asian countries is a very timely reminder, although most of the countries in the region have democratic setups.

In the absence of rational communication, violence breeds. All men are created equal and the rights of every man are diminished when one man's right is threatened (JFK). With this as a yardstick, the issue of surveillance and monitoring of violation of human rights has its undeniable importance. Without any periodic reports on the extent and magnitude of such violations, there exists no other gauge to determine the corrective measures. Collective and economic support tied to human rights abuses by global economic powers have made the countries prone to such abuses, very much sensitive of their actions. Transformations have been reported due to such periodic monitoring of countries' excesses.

Banning the representatives of these bodies to visit countries where excesses are predominant is an effort to muffle the voice of the dissident — how can a democratic person agree to such an unworthy treatment of his opponents? Tolerance of an opponent's view is the most important and cardinal issue of a democratic environment.

Economic, cultural rights can only be guaranteed if basic human rights have been respected. The enormous impact on the awareness of the world's population due to reports issued by Amnesty International have led to quite significant reduction of abuses; improved educational opportunities and awareness of contemporary issues with revival of democracy against all other forms of government has all but effectively helped the progress of human society towards the goal of protection of liberty and rights.

Let's not deny these rights and liberties by raising nationalist feelings of interference. In a society, the events over a period change the face of victims; once who are potential victims become the stalwarts of excesses. This reversal of role, when a potential victim becomes the aggressor, brings to surface the fragility of a system without control of excesses and one realises how grave it is to be a target of torture without any recourse.

Moderation of action can only be guaranteed by creation of checks and balances. Let's not sacrifice such checks and balances on the altar of our nationalistic pride and honour.

Iqbal Latif, Kuwait.

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

Romania Orphanages undergo improvement

BUCHAREST: (UPI): In the orphan's ward of Colentina Hospital, an assistant nurse balks at changing the diaper of 18-month-old Daniela, who has diarrhoea.

Diaper-changing is 2 o'clock and it's barely 1.30, the woman explains. Daniela will have to wait.

A mile (1.5 km) away, at Bucharest's Orphanage No. 1, 2-year-old Maria spends hours rocking back and forth in her crib, a silent plea for attention that goes unnoticed.

"She does that all the time. She likes it," nurse Dana Zoiteanu says.

Zoiteanu's colleagues, meanwhile, work the ward's 29 identical cribs like an assembly line, feeding, changing diapers, straightening sheets. There is little time for talking and less for cuddling. The toddlers, many of them thin and covered with insect bites, seem to have forgotten how to cry.

Spotlighted

Six months after the international news media first spotlighted the plight of Romania's orphans, physical conditions actually have undergone dramatic improvement. At Orphanage No. 1 there is enough baby formula, diapers and toys to last two years.

But administrators and foreign relief workers say they still have far to go to staff the orphanages adequately and change the attitudes of the people who work there.

"My dream is to somehow give these children a real family, and to do that we have to teach our workers to become real mothers and fathers," said Orphanage No. 1 director Dr Ion Ursuleanu.

Training programme for workers were cut by dictator Nicolae Ceausescu in 1978 at a time when the nation's orphanages were being overwhelmed with abandoned children, the product of a radical population growth programme that outlawed birth control and abortion.

Western relief officials say many orphanage workers have not been schooled in basic hygiene techniques, let alone the treatment of special psychological problems or the Aids virus, which infects about 10 per cent of Romanian orphans.

At the Colentina Hospital, where 50 abandoned or orphaned children with the Aids virus are being treated, six British nurses have moved into the hospital to be near their patients and to teach the local staff through word and example.

Babies

"The babies naturally cry when you put them down, so the Romanian staff never bothered to pick them up," said Ailsa Denney, 21, of Edinburgh, Scotland, as she cuddled dark-eyed Georgian, a 4-year-old not much larger than abnormal infant of 6 months.

The nurses have introduced basic hygienic practices that have long been standard in most countries: clean uniforms, hand washing, infection control of wastes.

They persuaded Romanian workers to abandon Ceausescu-era habits such as "swaddling," or leaving babies wet all day in reams of cotton material, and "prop-feeding," in which babies were fed from bottles mounted on their cribs.

"There has been real progress. I hope this 'tender loving care' is assimilated throughout the hospital, not just the babies' ward," said hospital director Dr Adrian Streinu-Cercel. "We have to change the mentality here."

The government's approach to the problem of abandoned children also has been slow to change. Ursuleanu said the government has done very little to improve the lives of orphans since the Christmas revolution that toppled Ceausescu.

Media

That perhaps explains why state-run Romanian news media have been silent about the appalling conditions in the orphanages, accounts of which have shocked television viewers and newspaper readers in the West.

Actually, we don't need help from the government because the response from foreign countries has been tremendous," Ursuleanu said. "We received so much aid, we had to distribute some of it to needy people in the countryside."

Adoptions by Western couples have also helped alleviate overcrowding, said Ursuleanu, noting that the number of children at Orphanage No. 1 dropped from 700 to 500 this year.

Those who remain call better than they once did, but they still lack the individual attention and specialised care they need to develop normally, he said.

"If you'll notice, most of the children are very quiet — too quiet, almost without personalities," Ursuleanu said. "They have big physical and psychological problems that will continue to scar them for some time in the future."

"But in a way, the greater catastrophe is not with these children — because there is hope for them — but the older generation of Romanians who grew up in this society. We are like these children, backward intellectually and socially. We were not allowed to be part of the family of the West."

QUOTE ME

"I will not deny that we made many mistakes in the great Asia war. Joining hands with the Nazis was a mistake. Fighting China was a mistake. But the white man's civilisation has been one of the survival of the fittest, the strong preying on the weak. The youth of Japan went to war thinking they were going to liberate Asia from that. — A Japanese rightist on World War II."

"If that's all you've got to say, sit down." — Gorbachev to a delegate who had questioned his handling of a session.

"We bowed to royalty a few times now, so we know what we're doing. We're getting used to the court." — American Rick Leach on playing on the centre court at Wimbledon.

"Today, at this historic juncture, our task is not only to wind down and eliminate military confrontation. We want to go beyond... to building a new Europe in which military aggression will become materially impossible and politically meaningless." — Nato Secretary-General Manfred Woerner in Moscow.

محرم الحرام

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Injecting gas into ageing oilfields

AHWAZ, Iran, July 15. (Opecna) The use of gas injection as a secondary recovery method in Iran is slowly but surely becoming a widespread phenomenon. According to Gholamreza Aghazadeh, the country's petroleum minister, "you know, even during the Gulf war we were using gas injection. After the war we introduced the practice in several fields. We estimate that with the help of secondary recovery methods, we will be able to increase our reserve base by some 20 billion barrels."

Iran claims to be among the earliest oil producers, although oil did not become a commercial proposition until the discovery of the Masjid-i-Sulman oilfield in April 1908. The 30 years after 1951, when the state-owned National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) was created by the government to undertake all oil and gas operations, including exploration, production, transportation, refining, sales and distribution, are considered as constituting the golden era of the Iranian oil industry.

Production
During this period, the country witnessed the phenomenal development of its oil industry. With the active co-operation of multi-national oil companies, one oilfield after another was discovered and the country experienced a corresponding increase in revenue, particularly after the creation of Opec, in which Iran is a pioneer member. From an average production of 30,000 b/d in 1954, oil output rose to a peak of 6,678 million b/d in November 1976. Since then, however, the country has not been able to achieve that production peak, partly because of "the disruption of the 1979 Iranian revolution, the consequences of the civil war, low oil prices and our strict adherence to Opec's production quota."

Iran boasts some of the largest oil producing fields in the world. These include Ahwaz and Gachsaran, both of which have contributed to the oil-based economic prosperity of the country. But some of these giant oilfields have aged and as with most things have been experiencing a slowing-down effect. Ahwaz, which, in its heyday, could pump an average of 1.4 million b/d — one of few such fields in the world — can now only boast of a mere 400,000 b/d.

Pressure
The cause of this production decrease is a decline in pressure and not necessarily an exhaustion of the reserve capacity. Thus it became necessary to put in place a facility to increase oil off-take capacity. To achieve this, a pressure maintenance programme had to be undertaken, aimed at increasing and stabilising pressure in the field to ensure a steady flow of crude. This project came to be known as the "maroon gas injection phase one project," one of few such projects in Opec member countries.

Despite the huge capital outlay necessary for the project, officials believe that the end will justify the means. These plans were drawn up to squeeze some of the reserves still embedded in the bowels of the sleeping giant. The plans call for the expenditure of millions of dollars and the implementation was entrusted into the hands of an American company, Foster Wheeler.

Project
The design was ready by 1976 and construction work started in 1978. By the time of the revolution, after which the American partners withdrew, only 20 per cent of the project had been completed. Thereafter, construction work was taken over by a South Korean company, which by 1984 was able to have the project 95 per cent complete. It was left to Iranian technicians and experts to see the project through. This they did, making it possible for the facility, spread over a one sq. km area, was to be inaugurated in March 1989 by President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani. However, some more work is still being undertaken.

At its conception, the project was divided into three phases, with phase one now functioning, even if partially. Phases two and three are still on the cards, but only just. "The cost today is simply too astronomical and no one can tell you when work will begin on either," admitted one official.

Phases
So far, some \$580 million have been invested in phase one, which now has a daily gas injection capacity of 315 million cu. ft. making possible the production of 400,000 b/d of crude oil by the Ahwaz oilfield.



One out of four people still live on less than \$370 a year.

Battle for aid getting tougher, says OECD

Poor must spend wisely

PARIS, July 15. (Reuters) The battle for aid is getting tougher and to receive help poor countries will have to convince donors and potential investors that they will spend the money wisely, the OECD said this week.

"Developing countries will have to compete for capital in a world which is short of capital, and to meet the higher real interest rates they will have to ensure that the return on capital is sufficient to pay the cost of capital," the 24-nation Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development said.

The world's rich countries have pledged they will not divert money earmarked for development aid to investment in the new Eastern European democracies.

But the OECD said in its annual survey of development assistance: "(Aid) efforts need to be sustained by a conviction among

decision-makers and by the public at large that aid is being well used in developing countries."

The fight to attract private capital will be even tougher, the Paris-based think-tank said.

African countries were complaining even before the political revolution in the former communist bloc that private investors were abandoning the continent, and the OECD said turning the situation around would not be easy.

The OECD said total resource flows — official aid, export credits and private investment — to developing countries rose to \$109 billion in 1989 from 104.3 billion in 1988.

But its data also show that interest and dividends paid by the developing world came to \$107.7 billion, leaving a net transfer of just \$1.3 billion. This compares with \$6.4 billion in

1988 and \$51 billion in 1981.

The main factor behind the overall increase in financial flows was a rise in bank lending to \$8.5 billion from \$5.8 billion, but that bare figure was deceptive.

"(It) reflected essentially a build-up of arrears in certain debtor countries, rather than a new readiness by bankers to lend to developing countries," the OECD noted.

Direct foreign investment in developing countries fell to \$22 billion in 1989 from \$23.4 billion in 1988, partly due to lower investment in China.

But the OECD was pleased with the Brady plan for reducing the bank debt of middle income countries — named after US Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady — which has already brought relief to some heavily indebted countries, led by Mexico.

World winning war on poverty

World Bank reports

WASHINGTON, July 15. (UPI) Most of the world is winning the war against poverty, ignorance and illness, and the number of people in want can be further reduced by the end of the century with adequate economic policies, the World Bank said today.

According to the bank, only one major region — sub-Saharan Africa — risks a degradation of its economic and social conditions in the 1990s.

Despite "tremendous" progress over the last three decades, at least 1.1 billion people in the developing countries — at least one out of four people — still live on less than \$370 a year, World Bank President Barber Conable said at a news conference to present "World Development 1990 — Poverty."

According to the bank's annual report, per capita consumption in the developing countries rose by 67 per

cent in real dollar terms between 1965 and 1985, life expectancy lengthened to 62 years from 51 years, and primary school enrollment rose to 84 per cent from 73 per cent.

The progress was uneven, with the greatest gains in East Asia. Yet, even in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, where consumption per capita stagnated over the period, life expectancy and primary enrollment rates improved.

Moreover, the 1980s — often called a "lost decade for the poor" — did not reverse the overall trend of progress.

"The incomes of most of the world's poor went on rising, and under 5 (years of age) mortality, primary school enrollment ratios, and other social indicators also continued to improve," the study said.

The setbacks of the 1980s occurred in sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America, where the incidence of poverty increased. In Latin America, nevertheless, overall social conditions did not deteriorate as much as the fall in income would have led to believe, the bank noted.

Conable contended that with adequate economic policies, the number of the poor could be slashed by 300 million by the end of the century.

"This is no pipe dream," he said, adding that over the last few decades there were spectacular victories in the war against poverty in countries as diverse as Colombia, Indonesia, Chile and Botswana.

Lyn Squire, director of the report's staff, said in Indonesia the proportion of the poor was reduced to 20 per cent from 60 per cent over the last 25 years — "in less than a generation."

Conable warned, nevertheless, that while the count of the poor could be reduced by 400 million in Asia, their number could swell by 100 million in sub-Saharan Africa due to low income rise and high population growth.

He said countries that reduced poverty did so with a two-part strategy.

The first promoted using the poor's most abundant asset, labour, through policies that harness market incentives, social and political institutions, infrastructure and technology. The second aimed at providing basic social services to the poor — health care, family planning, nutrition and education.

The World Bank voiced optimism on the prospects of the global economy for the 1990s, except for sub-Saharan Africa.

It projected that industrial economies will achieve a 3 per cent annual growth, commodity prices will dip in the short term but gain an average 0.2 per cent per year, and real interest rates should fall to between 3 per cent and 4 per cent from almost 5.5 per cent in the 1980s.

The number of the poor in Latin America is expected to remain the same as the region's economies advance by 4.2 per cent per year through the end of the century, with a 2.3 per cent per capita output gain. If the region achieved a better income distribution, the number of the poor could fall by 20 per cent.

For sub-Saharan countries, the projected annual economic growth rate is 3.7 per cent, with high population growth reducing the per capita gain to 0.5 per cent.

In contrast, South Asian nations will increase output at a 5.1 per cent annual rate, a per capita hike of 3.2 per cent.

Saudis stress on Opec unity

Egypt increases oil price

RIYADH, July 15. (Kuna) Saudi Arabia, Opec's largest oil producer, has reiterated its keen interest in defending the unity and cohesion of the exporting group and stressed at the same time that it appreciates the economic needs of other Opec members.

"Oil (market) developments in the past few days testified to the desire of the Saudi Arabian kingdom to defend stability of the international oil market and the cohesion of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec)," the official Saudi SPA news agency said in a commentary last night.

The commentary, by the agency's economic affairs editor, spoke of the kingdom's leading role in defending the Opec unity in a way that served the interests of the other 12 members and enabled the organisation to stabilise the oil market.

It noted, however, that since the early 1980s Opec began to run into difficulties when oil supply heavily exceeded international demand. The ensuing disputes over prices and production quotas threatened the very existence of the exporting group then, the agency said.

Citing recurrence of such crises that have shaken the organisation to the roots, the agency pointed out that Saudi Arabia was the first Opec member to heal cracks within the organisation.

The agency, in its self-congratulatory commentary, referred to the last week meeting of five Opec oil ministers in the kingdom in which the five Arab



King Fahd

Gulf Opec members agreed to stick to their Opec production ceilings.

SPA described the statement issued by the five ministers as "historic," saying it helped the international oil market restore confidence in Opec and immediately jacked up the commodity's prices by more than one dollar per barrel.

The agency laid special emphasis on the kingdom's role in persuading a disgruntled United Arab Emirates to honour its Opec quota for the sake of the organisation's unity.

■ Egypt today announced the increase of its oil export prices by \$2 a barrel for all blends starting July 16, a senior Oil Ministry official said.

Hammud Ayoub, the Oil Ministry's director for foreign trade, did not specify for how long the new prices would remain in effect.

GCC agro yield higher

Gulf countries defy hostile climate

RIYADH, July 15. (Kuna) Despite the fact that agricultural development in the Gulf Cooperation Council states is in its initial stages, the yield per hectare has been higher when compared with other developing economies of the world, according to an Indian-born agriculture expert.

Dr P.K. Pillai, the managing editor of "Arab World Agribusiness," a professional publication, said the increasing rates of productivity signal a new trend in the field of cultivation.

"Such a trend will manifest itself in the farm development of the region in the foreseeable future. Large modern green houses which have been established in these countries have defied the natural barriers of climate, soil and scarcity of water, enabling in the process application of techniques of intensive farming."

These have led to exceptionally high yields per unit of cultivation. Marginal lands, not used hitherto for farming have not impeded successful cultivation of vegetables and fruits," he says writing in the latest issue of the monthly just released.

Dr Pillai's theory that productivity has been showing an upward trend in substantiated by empirical data.

The area under wheat cultivation in Saudi Arabia, for instance, registered a multi-fold increase from 71,000 hectares in 1979 to 680,000 hectares last year with the production rising from a meagre 160,000 tons to an impressive three million tons. In effect, production of

wheat per hectare doubled to reach 4.41 tons, with the world average remaining at 2.3 tons.

The commanding position illustrates the success of the kingdom in the sector testifying the fact that given the right emphasis and methods employed, production can be augmented not only to meet the local demand but also make available the product for export.

"The performance of the United Arab Emirates in the case of barley has been gratifying — 8.4 tons, far above the world average of 2.5 tons per hectare. The yield of Saudi Arabia has been placed at 2.7 tons. Some of the other GCC states have started cultivation of cereals on a modest scale albeit the fact that most of the efforts have been on an experimental basis," he said.

The figures computed by him with regard to cultivation of tomatoes were even more interesting. Against a global average of 24 tons in 1988, the UAE scored the highest rate of return with 41 tons, followed by Kuwait (40 tons), Qatar (19 tons), Bahrain (18 tons), Saudi Arabia (12 tons) and Oman (8 tons).

As mentioned by him, the UAE has also maintained a good record of production of other vegetables and fruits with its yields from egg plants placed at 45 tons (world average 13 tons).

While the rest of the world showed an yield of 13 tons of cucumber, Kuwait recorded an incredible 118 tons.

Japan keen to step up Cairo ties

CAIRO, July 15. (Kuna) Visiting Japanese Deputy Minister of International Trade and Industry Takamaki Yamada today met here with Egyptian Minister of Economy Yassri Mustafa and Minister of State for International Co-operation Mousir Makramallah separately.

Speaking to reporters, Yamada expressed hope that trade and economic relations between both countries would nurture tangible activity at the upcoming stage, stressing Japan's keenness to strengthen its relations with Egypt.

He said he is looking forward to the joint Egyptian-Japanese seminar on investment due in Tokyo August 20, which he hoped would produce positive results to lure more investors and activate investment relations between the two countries.

The Japanese official arrived here on Thursday on a four-day visit.

He added that the trade balance shown a surplus in favour of Japan on grounds that Egyptian oil, which is the country's major export commodity to Tokyo, is not exported in Japan at present.

Donors want to have a close look at Soviet economy

WASHINGTON, July 15. (AP) The Soviet Union traditionally has been secretive about the inner workings of its economy. But now that Moscow wants Western money, it may have to open itself to some scrutiny.

The world's richest industrialised nations have been debating whether to provide economic help to the Soviet Union to bolster the reforms of President Mikhail Gorbachev. They're also wondering how best to help.

So the leaders of those nations, meeting in Houston last week, handed the

International Monetary Fund a daunting task.

They want the fund to survey the Soviet Union's huge but moribund economy to see how much the world's biggest communist system should change before it wins Western aid.

They want IMF advice on some key questions. How much industry must the Soviet state sell to private owners? What should be done with collective farms? When does the trouble have to be made convertible with the dollar and the mark and the yen? How fast must

wages and prices be set free?

The IMF has had plenty of practice in making such assessments.

Every year it casts a critical eye over the economies of the United States, Japan and other big countries, though its reports are not published. It also surveys China and some other communist countries.

But it has never investigated the Soviet Union, one of the few countries that is not an IMF member.

The Fund, which has its headquarters in Washington, is owned by 151

countries. Soviet membership has been blocked by the United States, though Washington does not have a veto over the Fund's day-to-day work.

Michel Camdessus, its French managing director, will call together representatives of major international organisations that the summit named to work with it on the Soviet survey.

Figuring out where and when to talk will be a job in itself. The Fund's sister organisation, the World Bank, has offices just across the street. But

another, the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development, is in Paris.

The European Economic Community, which is already making a survey of its own, is headquartered in Brussels. The new European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, just beginning to organise, will be in London.

Since summit leaders could not agree on what should be done for the Soviets, they decided to let each leader go his or her own way. But they also asked for a

study, which will delay joint action for at least six months.

Officials privy to the leaders' discussions said President George Bush wanted the study to be led by the IMF because of its experience in studying troubled economies and assessing their needs.

French President Francois Mitterrand reportedly objected, saying it would be demeaning to treat the Soviets like South American or African countries to which the fund dictates conditions for economic aid.

BUSINESS

Special Report

Quake ruins economy

Better buildings needed

WASHINGTON, July 15. (UPI): Iran's earthquake focuses fresh attention on what could happen "if" — if a quake hit central Tehran or important coastal oilfields, rural rice-growing regions, or if an earthquake should rip through the heart of Tokyo, New York City, Jakarta, Indonesia: Los Angeles or Beijing.

Besides possible massive loss of life and levelling of major cities, the economies of nations could be devastated and world financial markets shaken, too, earthquake risk analysts and economists say.

Recent years offer hints on how quakes can rock a nation financially.

China does not discuss it publicly, but its 1976 quake in Tang Shan in the northeast flattened a city of 1.25 million people and ruined crucial steel and coal industries that serviced Beijing. The quake — the world's worst this century, killing perhaps 300,000 people — was so devastating China scholars say it helped bring an end to Mao's Cultural Revolution.

Ecuador's 1987 earthquake ruptured its financial lifeline, the Andean oil pipeline to the Pacific coast, throwing the country's 87 gross domestic product off about 10 per cent by disrupting crude supplies for months, World Bank economist Eduardo Somoza says.

Nicaragua has never recovered from its 1972 earthquake, which killed some 10,000 people, ran up more than \$2 billion in damages and left key sectors of the capital, Managua, an urban wasteland. Former dictator Anastasio Somoza's mismanagement of the quake and reconstruction is widely seen as a target for popular anger that made the Sandinista revolution possible.

Earthquakes in the 1980s in Algeria, Nepal and El Salvador threw off the countries' gross national product by 12 per cent or more, United Nations reports say. Algeria's 1980 quake was the chief cause of the African nation's GNP, which was \$42.1 billion in 1979, dropped to \$36.9 billion in 1980, 12.4 per cent drop, UN Disaster and Relief Organisation documents show.

The United States could experience severe economic shock if a major city was the epicentre of even a moderate earthquake like the Loma Prieta temblor in northern California last October, strategic analysts and US Geological Survey risk analysts say.

"It could disrupt the economy," said Irvin Pinkus of the Centre for Strategic and International Studies in Washington. The banking system, stock market and business activity could be brought to a standstill, he said.

A US financial crisis could also occur if earthquake-prone Tokyo suffered a major seismic jolt, observers Hareesh Shah, chairman of Stanford University's Civil Engineering Department, Japan reportedly is discussing an earthquake scenario in which it would withdraw billions of dollars invested in US securities and real estate to finance Japanese reconstruction, as a byproduct of US stock markets, and possibly the economy, to trembling.

National leaders and even disaster officials in international aid organisations have barely begun to think about the consequences



Iranian village women mourn for their loved ones who were among the people killed by the June 21 earthquake. (Reuters wirephoto)

of earthquakes on economies, these analysts say.

Philippe Boule, director of the UN Disaster and Relief Organisation said world organisations and nations still struggle to save lives and, later, deal with rehabilitation and reconstruction.

There is "practically no study on the effects of an earthquake on the economy," Boule said.

"We need to work the economic problem," Pinkus said. The CSIS has invited policy makers this fall to "simulate" what might happen in the United States if a quake occurs in the sleeper of earthquake-risk belts, the Midwest fault area called New Madrid near Memphis, Tennessee, and St. Louis.

Three quakes in the region in 1811 and 1812 slightly altered the course of the Mississippi River, creating Real Foot Lake in Tennessee, rang church bells in Boston and collapsed scaffolding at the US Capitol and Washington, still under construction at the time, geologists say.

Another earthquake of at least moderate magnitude is considered likely in the New Madrid region within 25 to 50 years. This time analysts say such a quake could break oil pipelines to the developed East Coast, rail lines ferrying coal and threaten power supplies to the nation's financial and political capitals.

Immediate losses could total \$50 billion, even before computer-driven business and government centres stripped of electric-power supplies are taken into account, Pinkus said.

Mexico City is one capital that has survived a recent earthquake. Its 1985 quake killed 10,000, destroyed 36,000 homes, knocked tourism by 50 per cent for several months and was the main reason international lenders allowed Mexico to suspend payments on loans for six months, officials said. The damage was considered small because the quake's epicentre was far away.

Much of the damage done by quakes is the result of poor building design, analysts say. So the most important thing a nation can do is to resist earthquakes risks is construct better designed homes and offices.

"The best defence — both economically and humanly — is

good construction," says

Edward Arnold of the US Geological Survey.

In both Iran and Soviet Armenia, where tens of thousands are still homeless after a 1988 quake, many towns that earthquakes reduced to rubble might have come through if homes were better constructed, he said.

Earthquake-prone Japan and New Zealand and the West Coast of the United States are carefully bracing their new buildings and attempting to retrofit old ones to withstand a quake. In California's Silicon Valley, one major computer chip manufacturer has gone so far as to set up its own fire department and power supply as an earthquake-protection step.

But the East Coast and the Midwest are largely unprepared for a quake, says Arch Johnston of Memphis State University's Earthquake Research Centre.

Structural reinforcement can prevent buildings from collapsing in a moderate quake, Johnston says, but adds, "You can't design against an 8," a high-magnitude quake on the Richter scale.

Some analysts say a crucial step to reduce the economic impact, in particular, of quakes is a sound programme of earthquake insurance. New Zealand and Japan lead the world in this area.

Two bills proposing nationwide mandatory insurance have been filed in Congress. One of them required earthquake-prone zones to require structural changes in building codes as well, and California is weighing several such measures.

Their backers say the insurance industry might not be able to make payments on all the claims an urban-centred quake could bring. A mandatory programme would offer greater protection and spread financial risk over a larger population, they say. New Zealand is considering a government programme for the same reason.

Insurers of homes in northern California were able to cover costs of the October quake because damage, while tallying some \$5.6 billion, was not considered severe and only about 25 per cent of buildings in the stricken region were insured.

Some analysts say a crucial

Saudi chemical exports:

Saudi Arabia's total chemical exports to Japan by the end of last year exceeded \$300 million in value, Industry and Electricity Minister Abdul-Aziz Al Zamil told visiting Japanese Deputy Minister of International Trade and Industry Fumio Saito in a meeting in Jeddah.

Al Zamil said that their discussions had covered aspects of existing bilateral industrial co-operation, including joint industrial and petrochemical projects that were already in operation between the two countries. (Opecna)

EC to end quotas: The European Commission said on Wednesday it would end quota restrictions on imports into the European Com-

munity from Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia

from October 1. The move followed a decision last week by the "Group of 24" Western industrialised nations to extend their programme of aid for reforming East bloc states to Bulgaria, East Germany, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia, the commission, the community's executive arm, said.

Oil accord: Malta yesterday signed a production-sharing contract with the American oil company Amoco and the Australian subsidiary BHP for oil and gas exploration in two offshore blocks in the Malta channel.

Prime Minister Eddie Fenech Adami called the agreement a landmark in the island's oil exploration programme.

Neil angry at being in the limelight

'Just an ordinary guy'

DENVER, July 15. (AP): To bear Neil Bush tell it, he's "just a Denver guy trying to make a living and raise a family," and he's bewildered and angry at the attention he's receiving.

The 35-year-old slim, tanned, blond father of three children epitomises the enterprising businessmen who came to Colorado in the early 1980s to get rich in the oil business. He is also the son of US President George Bush.

"We live month to month, begged for money from time to time, and our business was relatively dormant," Neil Bush recalls. But he relishes that time in his life.

Now, he faces a public disciplinary hearing before federal regulators in September on his role as a director of the bankrupt Silverado Banking, Savings and Loan. Some Democrats are pushing for a special prosecutor to examine the case. The president is a Republican.

Neil Bush has been accused of conflict of interest and failure to disclose ties to men who received loans from Silverado. He has said he has done nothing wrong.

The president has defended his son's "honour and integrity" but has promised to stay out of the investigation.

Neil Bush says he is enraged that Democrats are making political hay out of his predicament.

"Neil Bush is it for the Democrats. I'm the highest-profile guy they have to shoot at out there," he said in an interview last week.

He also expresses anger what he calls "government mismanagement" in the way troubled savings institutions are being sold off.

Neil Bush played his most prominent role on the hot, steamy night of Aug 17, 1988, at the Republican National Convention in New Orleans, when he delivered all of Colorado's delegates to help seal his father's nomination for president.

It was a heady moment for the third of George and Barbara Bush's four sons, and it led to suggestions Neil Bush might have the stuff from which US House or Senate candidates are made. The possibility had him shrugging and smiling and saying "maybe."

His job then, he told reporters, was to help his father's campaign. "I'd hate to be the only son to have lost his home state for his dad."

Dyslexic as a child, Neil prac-



ticed reading exercise until he was able to overcome his problem, his brother George recalled. He eventually earned undergraduate and master's degrees in business from Tulane University.

Until a few months ago, Neil and Sharon Bush and their three children lived in a tan brick, two-story home in a friendly, established neighbourhood in Central Denver.

The family now lives in a new

\$550,000 house on Denver's wealthy southeast side. His downtown office is light and airy, with Western paintings and a clear view to the west, where the Rocky Mountains can be seen on most days.

Japan economy expansion continues

Growth rate to drop

TOKYO, July 15. (UPI): Japan's economic expansion is expected to continue into fiscal 1991 although the growth rate will drop slightly from the current year under the weight of rising interest rates, the long-term credit bank reported.

The leading long-term credit bank cited brisk personal consumption and steady corporate investment in plant and investment as major factors behind the growth.

"While Japan's economic growth rate in fiscal 1990 has been forecasted at 4.9 per cent, the growth rate in fiscal 1991 will drop to 4.2 per cent, a level that can be maintained for a medium-term because the growth of investments in housing, plants and equip-

ment will slow beginning with the latter half of fiscal 1990 due to the rise in interest rates," said the bank's report on the short-term outlook for the domestic economy.

Japan's continuous economic expansion, which has already entered its second long-term postwar period, has a good possibility that it will surpass a record 57-month span set in the 1960s.

The bank said personal consumption will remain active since disposable income is expected to expand at a rate of 7.0 per cent due to large corporate profits and a high rate of wage increases resulting from the tight labour market.

E. Germany to raise liabilities

EAST BERLIN, July 15. (UPI): The East German government, presenting what is likely to be the country's last budget, proposed this week to raise its debt and drastically reduce the number of government employees.

The proposal presented to Parliament calls for a budget of 63.7 billion deutsche marks (\$38.6 billion), including 10 billion marks (\$6.06 billion) in new loans. But the government said it will save funds by drastically reducing the number of government employees to match structures in the West German government before German unification.

The East German ministries currently employ almost 21,000 people and other government institutions about 520,000. The government did not say how many people it will lay off, but said it has imposed a hiring freeze.

The budget includes 20 billion marks (\$12.12 billion) in aid to help restructure a number of companies, some in the military sector.

The proposal, covering the period between July 1 and Dec 31, further allocates 7 billion marks (\$4.24 billion) for the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. The Economics Ministry will receive 5.8 billion marks (\$3.51 billion) and the Ministry of Defence and Disarmament 4.5 billion marks (\$2.72 billion).

Hungary step to cut deficit

Price hikes

BUDAPEST, July 15. (UPI): The government said this week it would ignore opposition criticism and implement steep price increases for fuel, liquor and cigarettes next week to help reduce its budget deficit.

"The whole package of price hikes which had been originally submitted to Parliament will be implemented in the government's own jurisdiction," government spokesman Balazs Laszlo said at a press conference.

Early this week, the government was forced to withdraw from the legislature a proposal to boost government revenues by the equivalent of \$343 million this year in order to meet a deficit ceiling of \$156 million set by international lending organisa-

tions. Opposition parties said the government was asking Parliament to share the responsibility for the highly unpopular price increases, which they warned would spark inflation.

The price of gasoline was to rise by 20 per cent Monday and cigarettes and liquor were to rise by 25 per cent. But the steepest price hikes were scheduled to go into effect Aug 1, with increases of 42-45 per cent in the price of electricity, coal and natural gas.

Laszlo said the government was "baffled by the conduct of the opposition because the current budget was not the making of the present government but that of its predecessor."



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Coinage reform goes before Congress; \$1 bill vs the \$1 coin

WASHINGTON, July 15. (UPI): Proponents urging the minting of a new \$1 coin believe Christopher Columbus will succeed where Dwight Eisenhower and Susan B. Anthony failed.

Legislation pending in the Senate and House calls for the minting of a gold-Coloured, 11-sided \$1 coin. The Senate proposal calls for the coin to be embossed with the face of Columbus on one side and a tribute to space exploration on the reverse.

Proponents of the new coin say it will save the government money and offer greater convenience to consumers faced with a battery of vending machines, public telephones and transportation systems that favour coin over currency.

Boosted by the proposed coin's colour and dis-

tinctive shape, they are confident the Columbus dollar will sail through the rough seas that sink both the Eisenhower \$1 coin, introduced in 1971, and the 1979 Anthony dollar.

"I do not believe the mistakes of the Anthony coin should inhibit future coinage reform. We can use those mistakes to guide us to a successful and publicly acceptable \$1 coin, with all its obvious benefits," said Senator Pete Domenici, a Republican from New Mexico, who introduced the United States Coinage Reform Act, which would usher in the Columbus dollar.

Domenici's bill would give the treasury 18 months to put the coin into circulation — in time to catch some of the hoopla surrounding the 500th anniversary

of the discovery of America by Columbus.

Mint officials said it would take at least 20 months from the coin's approval for it to be circulated. Some \$1 coin proponents have suggested replacing Columbus with another design to remove this potential obstacle.

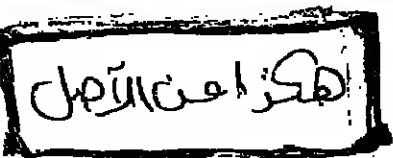
The proposed legislation also would authorise the Treasury Department to study the possibility of removing the penny from circulation, a move designed in part to reduce the overall number of coins.

Representative Jim Kolbe, a Republican from Arizona, who introduced a companion bill in the House, refers to the Anthony dollar as coinage reform's "Bay of Pigs." Still, he believes the time is right to launch a new \$1 coin.

"The rationale for minting a dollar coin a decade ago is even more urgent today," Kolbe said at a recent hearing before the Senate Banking Committee, which is considering the Coinage Reform Act.

"The effects of periodic inflation over the last 30 years have thrown the US currency system out of alignment. Unfortunately, today's dollar is the quarter of the 1950s," Kolbe testified.

"With paper bills, we cannot make a long-distance call on a pay phone, buy a Sunday paper from a street box, drive through a toll booth, or use a long-term parking metre," agreed James Benfield, a Washington consultant and executive director of the Coin Coalition, a lobbying group supporting the dollar coin.





French style

The French Ambassador to Kuwait, Jean Bellivier, held a reception on the occasion of his country's National Day. A large number of officials including the director of the Amir Diwan, Ibrahim Al Shatti, a number of ambassadors of Arab, African and European countries, the US ambassador and members of the French community attended the reception.

It was held at the Meridian Hotel on Saturday. The heads of the Catholic Church, Mr. Francis Micallet and Greek Orthodox Church, Mr. Basilios Kanakri, also attended the reception. Pictures show some of the guests at the reception.



PRAYERS

Fajr	3.26 am
Zuhr	11.54
Asr	3.29 pm
Maghreb	6.49
Isha	8.19

All entries for the What's On column can be sent by telex (22332) to Events Section or hand delivered daily, except Thursdays, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab Times Office in Shuwaikh. Photographs will also be considered for publication. Phoned-in entries will not be accepted.

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus
Jazira Al Shaitan (Arabic)
Starring: Adel Imam, Yusra Al Salamiya
Jazira Al Siff (Arabic)
Starring: Salah Saadani, Najla Fathi
Al Hamra
Al Falheen Ahham (Arabic)
Starring: Saeed Saleh, Hayatem
Drive-In
Jazira Al Shaitan (Arabic)
Starring: Adel Imam, Yusra Al Firdous
Eeshwar (Hindi)
Starring: Anil Kapoor, Vijay

Shanti
Fahabeh Open-Air
Basera (Hindi)
Al Fakaleel
Oru Vadakkun Veezagadha (Malayalam)
Al Jabra
Three Fugitives
Granada
Closed
Sulaikhbat
Fleisch
Al Jleeb
Biroha Botha (Bengali)
Ahmadi Drive-In
Angeles Blood Mission

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

9.00 Holy Quran
9.15 Cartoons
9.40 Irtah Ya Simsim (Sesame Street)
10.10 Good Morning
10.30 Wa'ad Nahar: Arabic serial, featuring Azza Kamal, Mustafa Fahmi
11.15 Sahab Al Khair
12.00 Al Kanaz: Arabic serial, starring: Hind Kamel, May Jamal, Fawzi Mahdi
1.00 News Summary
1.05 World News via Satellite
1.30 Cartoons
2.00 Al Sanafer: cartoon-serial
2.30 Surkhah Nadam: daily Gulf serial, featuring Ali Hassan, Maryam Saleh
3.30 Anghaam: Arabic film, starring: Athar Al Hakim, Walid Tawfiq, Huda Sultan
5.15 Cartoons
5.30 Adventures: cartoon serial
6.00 Mama Anisa and Summer: children's viewing
7.30 Songs

8.00 The Holy Quran and Science: prepared and presented by Dr Ahmad Shawki Ibrahim
9.00 News in Arabic
9.45 Raaqeb La Yanam: Arabic serial, featuring Ahmad Mazhar, Sumiya Al Ali, Mahi Ismael, Nawal Ahul Futouh
11.00 Nukhta Ala Harf (Punctuation): variety show presented by Marwan Sawaf. Tonight's guests is Saadallah
12.15 News Summary
12.20 World News via Satellite
12.35 Holy Quran/Closedown

KTV 2

6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 Cartoons
6.30 Only One Earth: Examines water pollution and its impact on the quality of life.
7.00 Roving Report: KTV presents roundup of regional and world news.
7.30 Charles-in-Charge:

Charles marries another woman; and the family try to reconcile differences between Charles and his former flame, Stephanie.
8.00 News in English
8.40 Face to Face: Interview with Mohammad Hamad Al Roomi, director of the Computer Department at the Ministry of Interior.
9.10 Jake and the Fat Man: Jake gets some help from Alexis to investigate a series of crimes.
9.40 The People Next Door: "Town Without Pity." Walter's imagination goes haywire when he tries to caricature his new home town.
10.30 The New Mission Impossible: "The Berlin Wall." Secret agents rescue a girl taken hostage by the East Germans.
11.30 News in Brief
11.40 Magazine: D'Actualite/Closedown

Please note that Kuwait Television programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

Human spirit

Einer Boberg's talking point

By Diana Abou Haidar
Arab Times staff

TWO weeks after Einer Boberg married the girl of his dreams, he packed a bag, left her a note on the dresser and left. The note read: "I have gone off into London to work on my speech. I'll be back when I can talk. Please don't try to follow me."

The young Canadian who had fallen in love with his British bride in Vienna where he was studying music, was in a state of depression caused by a major relapse in his stuttering condition, the hidden disability he had suffered from ever since he could remember. But in spite of some weak moments, he was determined to overcome his problem, and it wasn't long after he wrote the note that he decided to change careers from musician to speech therapist.

More than three decades later, Einer Boberg, a Ph.D. in speech pathology and psychology, is director of the Institute for Stuttering Treatment and Research in his native Edmonton, Canada. As a visiting professor to Kuwait University's Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, Boberg prepared a proposal for establishing a department for speech and hearing sciences.

"When you stutter, you try to scheme and plot how to get through the day without revealing that you can't talk. A good deal of energy goes into it," says Boberg knowingly.

"When people approach you, you look perfectly normal, so they can't prepare for it. With crippled or blind people for instance people have the chance to prepare. But with stutterers they are taken by surprise and their

actions may vary from pity to anger to rejection.

Although he speaks fluently now, Boberg will never forget how it was to grow up with this deficiency that is caused by a subtle neurophysiological deficit in co-ordinating speech mechanism. "At home I couldn't take part in family conversations at the dinner table, and I had to pretend that I had nothing to say. At school, my teachers would excuse me from class activities. It felt pretty awful. Although you have this feeling of immediate relief that you don't have to participate, the next sensation is that of shame and guilt."

Boberg had to drop out of school and take up farming after ninth grade because of stuttering. But farming was so boring he decided to brave going into a religious high school. "Although my stuttering was very severe, I could sing with no difficulty and I used to go on tours of western Canada with the school choir," he says explaining that singing is easy for stutterers because it involves slowing down articulation and puts less pressure on them to communicate. But his worst nightmare came when members of the choir had to introduce themselves to the audience. "The first time I had to do that, it took me about two minutes and everybody was embarrassed. The director then told me that he'd have the person standing beside me say my name," remembers Boberg.

He also had to give up competing in basketball, his favourite sport, because he feared the moment when he had to pass by the registration desk and say "My number is so and so, I'm substituting for number so and so."



Boberg and wife Julia together forever



Einar Boberg: 'I regained control of my speech'

But school activities were not the only things young Boberg missed out on. There were lost romances too. Slowing down his speech to avoid an occasional slight stutter, he recounts: "Before I went to the university, I was teaching music when the school hired an attractive piano teacher. I wanted to go out with her so I decided to call her. Telephone calls are the worst for stutterers because there's a lot of anxiety associated with them. When her landlady answered the phone, my heart rate went up and my palms got sweaty. I tried to pronounce the girl's name but I couldn't and after two minutes I hung up. That evening I went home and wrote in my diary that I really preferred to listen to Beethoven than to go out with a girl."

The young man's first ray of hope came with a speech therapist visiting Canada from England. The visitor showed 18-year-old Boberg a film made by the University of Minnesota about a special programme for treating stutterers. "That was the first time anybody had told me that something could be done about my problem. I wrote to the university and arranged to go down to Minneapolis on a Greyhound bus. To avoid talking, I had letters of introduction written out to everybody including the immigration and customs officers," recounts Boberg.

"In five weeks, there was dramatic improvement and I learned how to confront my fear of stuttering and how to control it. But when I went back home there was no follow-up or maintenance programmes and I started to relapse. Things were also complicated by my father getting ill and dying of cancer."

After that, Boberg's life became a tiring series of improvements and relapses topped by the one he had before his wedding and after his honeymoon. "I contemplated getting hypnotised for the ceremony to be able to take the vows but I ended up taking very powerful sedatives. The morning of the wedding, I went out to Victoria Station to meet my mother and sister and I got lost because I took the wrong train. I couldn't ask anybody for directions and I didn't have a paper and pencil to write out my questions. When I got home, my bride was about to call

the police to find out if I had committed suicide or something," Boberg remembers.

"I have always wondered why people with such a severe problem don't throw themselves in front of a train or over a bridge," says Mrs Boberg. "It takes a huge amount of determination and self-discipline to keep going. And in Einer's case a lot of pure stubbornness," she adds with a teasing laugh.

"There were times when I rode on my bicycle and hoped a truck would hit me. But when I left home after my honeymoon, I was determined to get on top of my problem. So I went from one hostel to the other talking to strangers and practising the techniques I was taught at the University of Minnesota. These techniques I couldn't have practised with anybody I had an emotional relationship with. I wanted to know more about human speech, why I stuttered and why I kept relapsing. It was then when I decided to change career," says Boberg with a twinkle in his dark blue eyes.

"When I regained control of my speech, I wrote to my wife and we had a reunion in a park in London where we discussed my decision and decided to go to the United States where I could study speech pathology."

When Boberg returned to Canada after earning his Ph.D. in speech pathology and psychology from the University of Minnesota, stutterers came to him asking for help. "In summer of 1972, I started an experimental treatment programme based on literature and personal experience. At the end of every summer, I evaluated and revised the programme until it became highly effective," he says. His programme has helped more than 600 stutterers control their speech, decrease their fear of talking and increase their confidence in their ability to participate in conversation and social activities.

"It's a tremendous privilege to be able to work professionally on something that is especially important to you. Not many people have that opportunity," Boberg concludes.

Boberg, who left Kuwait recently, can be reached at: Institute for Stuttering Treatment and Research 401, 8540-109 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6G 1E6.

WHAT'S ON

Approb 'Who's Who' directory

THE Association of Pakistani Professionals and Businessmen (Approb) is planning to publish a "Who's Who" directory of prominent Pakistani professionals and businessmen resident in Kuwait by January 1991. The directory aims at providing information about all Pakistanis proficient and distinguished in their professions and businesses.

Data forms are available free of cost from Approb executive board members and other locations. For further details contact Approb on Tel. No. 2425315, Fax 5323751, P.O. Box 2351, Salmiya, 22034 Salmiya, Kuwait.

A copy of the directory will be given free of charge to all individuals whose names will appear in the directory.

Kapilku

July 19: Kapilku awards certificates of attendance to those who attended tailoring, bookkeeping, basic accounts and basic computer courses. The ceremony will be held at Al Araliya Restaurant, 8 pm. Philippine Ambassador Mauryag Mohammad Tamano will be the chief guest. Buffet dinner, KD 3 per person. Proceeds will go towards the school fund.

Those who attended self-improvement classes are asked to contact Sarah Macarimbang. Tel: 4839009, 4839889, 4843447.

Summerbelle '90

Aug 2: United Goans Centre will hold Summerbelle '90 at the SAS Hotel's The Tent. Top Ranks and Hurricane Alley in attendance. For reservations call Tony 2612024; Cyril 2523930; Joe 5655140.

Sur Sangeet

July 19: A musical evening will be presented by Sur Sangeet group to say farewell to outgoing Indian Second Secretary S.M. Mathur. Singers participating in the show include Valencia, Rosebud, Laxmi, Charlie, Shahnaz Karim.

Rock and Reggae

July 22: "Let's Rock and Reggae", a concert with Steve Michael and the Afro Beat, will be held from 9pm at the Holiday Inn Hotel's Grand Ballroom. Vocalist Sheryl Pereira will make a special appearance as a soloist and also join Steve in some duets. Tina Mathews will perform a Reggae dance routine. Reservations open. Tel: 2405648; 2476660; 5714340; 5721030.

Tickets also available from special desk in Holiday Inn lobby. The concert is being organised and presented by Phil Danielle. Early bookings are advised due to limited seating.

In memory of Karajan

July 16, 7.30 pm: Kuwait Cine Club will hold a musical evening in memory of Austrian Herbert von Karajan, conductor of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, at Kuwait Towers diwaneya. Highlights of the evening include Tchaikovsky's symphony No. 4 in F Minor, opus 36; L.V. Beethoven, symphony No. 9 in D Minor, opus 125.

After the concert, Abdul Rahman Nassar will give a talk on Karajan's life and music.

Cinema

British Council July 14/15: 6.30 pm. "The Shooting Party." (92 minutes). They are elegant, arrogant and assured. They dine, shoot, gossip and flirt.

But then, it is 1913 and disturbing undercurrents lie beneath the glittering facade of this film. James Mason's swan song. Winner of the Best of the British Director Award. Admission free. But reservations must be made. Tel: 2533204; 2533227.

Children's cinema
July 18 (6 pm); July 19 (10.30 am): Popeye and Son. A New Generation. Strongman sailor Popeye and girlfriend Olive Oyl marry and have a son, Popeye Junior. It is time to join them in their hectic summer activities. This feature will be shown at the British Council, Mansouriyah, Admission free but reservations must be made. Tel: 2533204; 2533227.

At the International
Faiaka: situated on the 19th floor, overlooking the coastline, it offers international cuisine; live entertainment in the evenings. Closed on Fridays.
La Palma: offers buffet as well as a la carte. Family style brunch on Fridays.
Kai: offers Japanese dining in an oriental atmosphere.
La Palisserie: selection of snacks; pianist in the evenings.
Al Waha: ice cream promotion featuring different flavours, until August 1990.

At the Plaza:
Al Dallah Coffee Shop: international cuisine; open buffet plus menu.
Lolouwah Corner: snacks and refreshing summer drinks.
Marco Polo: Italian ambience and cuisine, particularly pasta.

At the SAS
Bisiretto: Sunday/Wednesday — pasta night; Italian music.
Peacock Room: Chinese cuisine; lunch and dinner.
Al Boom: Kuwaiti experience; charcoal grilled food, plus mezzeh buffet.

At the Sheraton
Hunt Room: Daily buffet lunch in addition to a la carte; plus grilled specialties; a la carte dinner plus some specialties from Le Tarbouche; Duo Fantasy in attendance.
Wednesday/Thursday: Oriental buffet; live entertainment by the Lourdes Band and Arab singer Mohammad Baghdadi. The restaurant is open from 12.30 pm to 3.30 pm; and 8 to 12.30 am.

Riccardo Restaurant: will be open for dinner until September; 8 pm to 11 pm.
Coffee Shop: breakfast, lunch and dinner; 6 am to 0100 am.

At the Holiday Inn
Al Ahmadi Coffee Shop: breakfast, lunch and dinner. Buffets featuring Continental and Oriental cuisine; emphasis on seafood.
Al Andalus Supper Club: Arabic style dining on Thursday nights; music by resident Arab band.
Friday Family Lunch: Disney Fantasy; children half price.

At the Meridian
La Brasserie
Thai Corner: Saturday night.
Cowboy Night: Every Sunday, with live country music.
Chinese Corner: Monday night feature.

Greek Taverna: Mediterranean magic with bousouki music.
Indonesian corner: on Wednesdays; food prepared in front of you.
Jazz Night: New Orleans atmosphere on Thursday night.
Friday: Oriental luncheon buffet; family day.
Versailles: Business lunch; and a la carte dinner.
At the Messilah Beach
Al Mubarakiah: open around the clock; seafood promotion

on Wednesdays, 7 pm; Fridays — Middle Eastern cuisine.
Al Jawharah: Thursday special — special menu; music by Rainbow Band.
Al Berdowneh: BBQ on Thursday in beach-garden restaurant; Lebanese food.

At Al Salam
July 12 — 19
Al Bandar Coffee Shop: Arabic and Continental buffets, lunch and dinner; also a la carte; open 6 am to midnight.
Al Mawardi Open-Air Cafe: open from 6 pm to midnight.
Al Gandouli Grill Garden: open after 6 pm; grilled food.
Friday brunch: 12 noon to 3 pm, ship discovery tour, entertainment for children and cartoon-strip characters.

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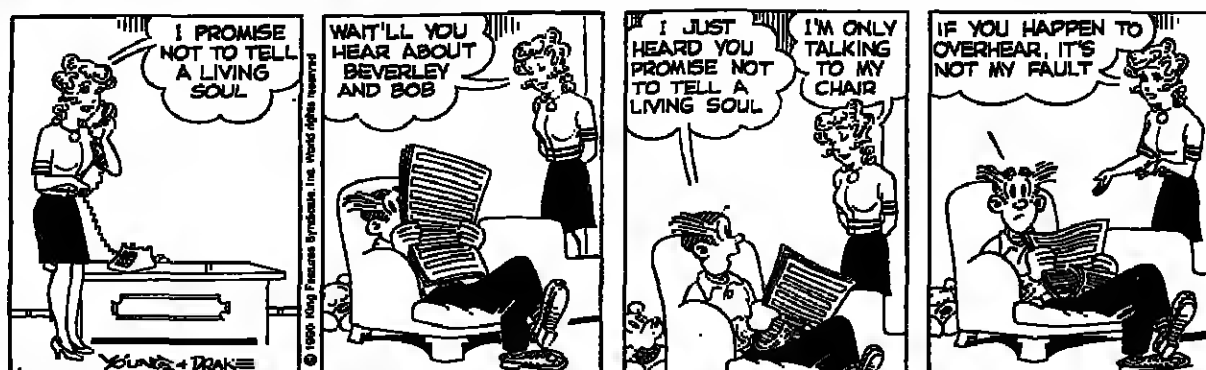
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Versailles: Business lunch; and a la carte dinner.
At the Messilah Beach
Al Mubarakiah: open around the clock; seafood promotion

Sport
All-Filipino Scrabble Tournament
July 20: Filcheck have announced the all-female scrabble tournament, scheduled to start on Friday, July 20, will now be open to all Filipinos, male and female. Deadline for entries is July 19.

A total of 15 minutes is allocated for each player to finish the game; a player who exceeds the time limit will cease to play and his/her last score will be considered as the last score. Each player is required to use a chess clock to monitor time. The winner or the player with the highest score will earn 3 points; second will be 2 points; third one point and the last zero point. In case of a tie, the player with the highest score wins.

The champion and the two runners-up will each receive a trophy and valuable gift items. Registration forms are available at the Kabayan Restaurant. For details contact Edward/Liza — 2402045

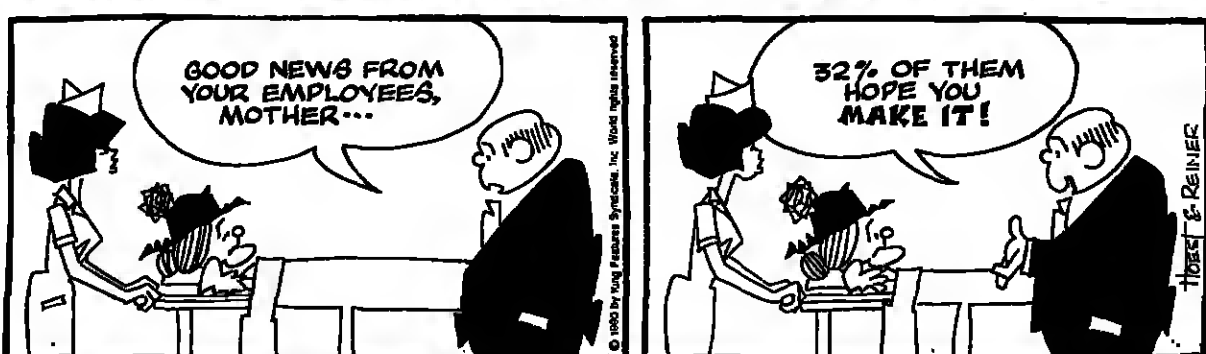
BLONDIE



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



AGATHA CRUM



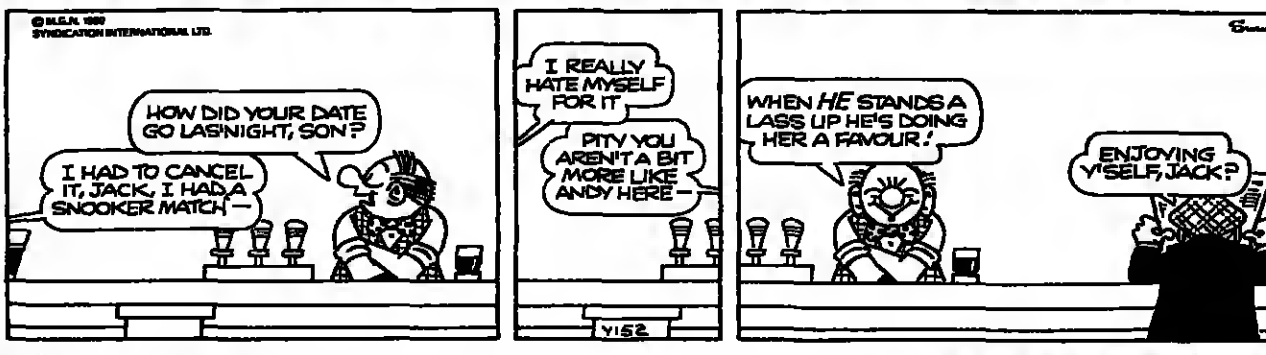
BEETLEBAILEY



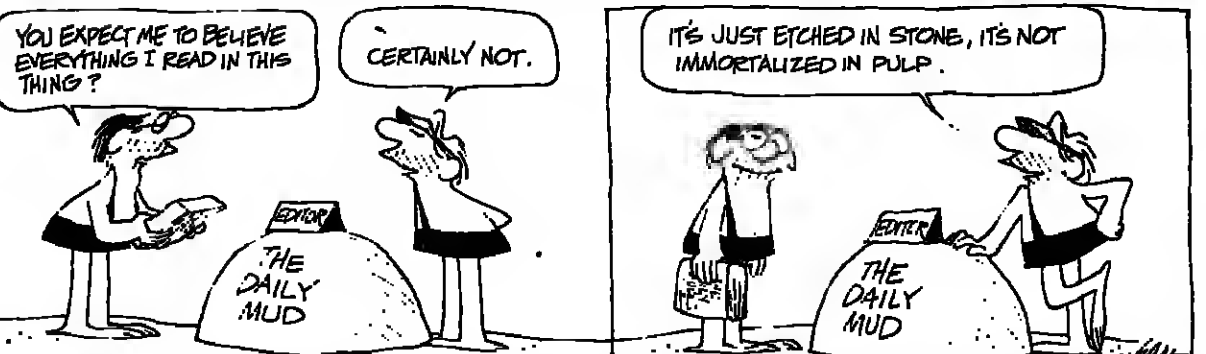
THE WIZARD OF ID



ANDY CAPP



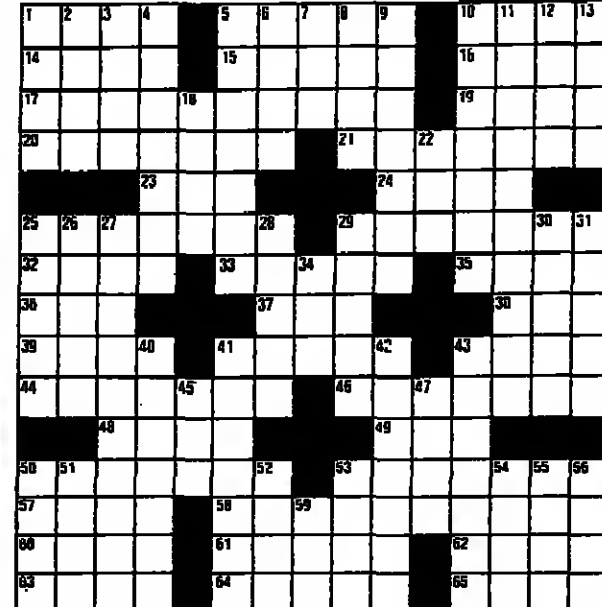
D.C.



HE-MAN



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 1 Eskimo vehicle
 - 5 Robust; male: Sp.
 - 10 Party open
 - 14 Sumptuous.
 - 15 Church official
 - 16 Small rodent
 - 17 Buckley with no paycheck?
 - 19 Another name for ancient Velle
 - 20 Peach State
 - 21 South Seas diver, of a sort
 - 23 "I, six nonlectures" author: Inits.
 - 24 Counselor-at-law, for short
 - 25 Ship's windlass
 - 29 Showed contempt
 - 32 Eight, in Aachen
 - 33 "Oil for the — of China"
 - 35 Kansas Senator
 - 36 Porker's place
 - 37 Actress West
 - 38 Prized possession
 - 39 Hardy girl
 - 41 Island in the Moluccas
 - 43 1920s Art style
 - 44 Members of the Fourth Estate
 - 46 Accounts
 - 48 Be concerned
 - 49 Number of Little Indians
 - 50 Sloping
 - 53 Borgnine and Hemingway
 - 57 "To have and — to —"
 - 58 Brokaw looking for a scandal?
 - 60 Author of "A Death in the
- DOWN**
- 1 Phoney coin
 - 2 Crecent shape
 - 3 Montreal player
 - 4 Most loved
 - 5 Part of AMA
 - 6 Can. province
 - 7 401, to Augustus
 - 8 Joann of Arc
 - 9 Meid of —
 - 10 Turned aside
 - 11 Mudd in a merry mood?
 - 12 Away from
 - 13 Hitchcock's " — Window"
 - 18 " — a kick out. of you"
 - 22 Dined
 - 25 Indian social
 - 26 Played a part
 - 27 Murrow in a gym class?
 - 28 Appellations
 - 29 Primitive weapon
 - 30 Choose
 - 31 The common people of ancient Greece
 - 34 Deface
 - 40 Balletgoer with sore feet
 - 41 Baby, at times
 - 42 Maker of verses
 - 43 Tweed from Ireland
 - 45 Table
 - 46 Scrap
 - 47 William, the Quaker
 - 50 Former Iranian title
 - 51 Sluggish
 - 52 Strike out
 - 53 Homeric
 - 54 Caen's neighbor
 - 55 Amphibian
 - 58 Pintail duck
 - 59 Stowe's Little —

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

HEEDS AVER STLO
EXTRA SERE CROW
MINUTEHANO ROAN
STAGED LEO ADDOS
DOS SLAP
LATE AGE ERECT
EGRET RAINS RIA
FOURHOURSTOKILL
TRE RUBLE NAMES
ASSET TRA NERO
BEER TRA DAMAGE
ACRE DAYLABORER
GRID EVES EDITS
SUES REST LEASE

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ KQ7 ♡ AJ93 ♦ K843 ♣ KJ
West North East South
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ ?
What action do you take?
A.—This is close between a pass and a takeout double—we feel you do not have enough playing tricks for two no trump, assuming you play that as natural. We hate to be shut out of the auction with the best hand at the table, so we slightly favor a takeout double.

Q.2—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ Void ♡ AKQ54 ♦ J876 ♣ J752
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
1 ♠ Dbl Pass 2 ♠ ?
What action do you take?
A.—You have excellent hearts for partner, but a dead minimum double and a fistful of losers. Pass—the auction is not over. Partner has another turn and might be able to act again.

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ KQJ7652 ♡ 8 ♦ 5 ♣ K854
As dealer, what action do you take?
A.—We are of the old school. We can expect the spades to produce six tricks and the clubs one plus. That brings the total to seven and, at this vulnerability, an opening bid of three spades looks just right.

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ 1052 ♡ 8 ♦ K8753 ♣ 9874



YOUR STARS

- Aries** March 21 - April 20
You are more liable to an upset stomach so do not eat anything stale or too rich. You will have something to be pleased but nothing to be smug about. Avoid going to extremes. Be prompt.
- Cancer** June 21 - July 20
An offer or proposal should be treated with a little wariness. If you expect to have all things your own way you will be greatly disappointed. Avoid thinking that all things are as you would wish them to be. Be tolerant.
- Libra** Sept. 23 - Oct. 22
Now is not a good time to take any out of the ordinary risks. You are more liable to make mistakes so keep a specially good look out for them. Do your best to avoid getting into set habits, even if you are getting older. Be respectful.
- Capricorn** Dec. 21 - Jan. 19
Do not become exasperated if a new device does not seem to work, just read the instructions one again. You will find it hard to make up your mind, but in the end you will make the right choice. Be respectful.
- Taurus** April 21 - May 20
You will be able to learn from your past errors and should seek to do so. Not everything is as you would wish it to be and you will have to make the best of it. There will be plenty of distractions, do your best to avoid them. Be reliable.
- Leo** July 21 - Aug. 22
There will be disappointment but you will be able to take it in your stride. And you will also find some things that are more to your liking. Do ensure you do not forget a promise you have made. Be sincere.
- Scorpio** Oct. 23 - Nov. 22
You will have to make an effort to maintain harmony with your partner. You should not insist on having your own way in too many things, do make a few concessions. And avoid exceeding limits that exist for your safety too. Be pertinent.
- Aquarius** Jan. 20 - Feb. 19
You should make sure you get enough rest but you should not think that every extra effort is too much for you. Do not delay a decision you know should be made now. Avoid spending more than you can afford. Be generous.
- Gemini** May 21 - June 20
You will be absolved from something for which you were wrongly blamed. You should not go too far in pointing out faults of others. If you do you will only cause yourself a lot of resentment and some enmity. Be moderate.
- Virgo** Aug. 23 - Sept. 22
You will feel rather less energetic and will have to use a little more will power. Your lucky numbers are 15 and 27. Something you thought you had already done will still need doing. Take a little better care of your health. Be alert.
- Sagittarius** Nov. 23 - Dec. 20
You should try to keep calm even when dealing with an irascible person. Do not expect everything to be quite straightforward and simple. However do not introduce complications into what began by simple. Be consistent.
- Pisces** Feb. 20 - March 20
A tendency to believe that things are as you want them to be should be restrained. Do not trust to luck or coincidence, instead make an effort to do what you know well has to be done. There is not nearly as much time available as you seem to think there is. Be considerate.



Flying doctors

Packed with miracles

The boy in the airliner looked at his watch. Then looked again. For the first time in eight years he could see the dial.

For when 16-year-old Ahmet Soysal first came aboard the white, four-engined DC-8 he was blind.

He was just one of thousands of people who make a pilgrimage to the plane, often called the Great White Bird, who experience a miracle. They are released from a world of darkness by a medical team who fly from country to country.

During the last eight years Project Orbis has completed more than 100 three week missions in 53 countries and restored the sight of thousands of patients.

The doctors aboard Orbis don't only perform eye operations, often on people who would otherwise be without hope. They teach others to do the same as they circle the Earth for ten months every year on their mission of mercy.

Sometimes, it is Operation Heartbreak. For the medical team of 23 has only a limited number of healing hands.

In African countries, the Executive Director of Project Orbis, Oliver Foot admits the biggest problem is turning people away. He says: "It's absolutely heartbreaking, especially when you're woken up at three in the morning by a mother with a child on her hip begging for help."

"But if we can educate doctors and nurses to combat blindness in the end we're going to give sight to a lot more people."

Then there are the colourful visitors. In Swaziland with doctors came on board wearing loin cloths, feathered headgear and carrying spears. At first they thought the Orbis team was bad magic. But after watching a patient having a corneal transplant they announced them good magic.

In Mali, West Africa, four blind people arrived by camel from Timbuctoo, a two-week journey away.

But the main work of the flying hospital, which costs \$2.4 million a year to keep in the air, is healing and teaching.

I went aboard the veteran aircraft when it was taking a break at Schiphol Airport in Amsterdam, before flying on to Bulgaria. Inside the DC-8 which cost \$2 million dollars to convert into a teaching hospital, was an operating theatre, sophisticated microsurgical equipment and an elaborate audio visual unit.

The veteran DC-8 flies round the world, its medical team bringing sight to thousands of blind people. And it's kept in the air by faith, hope ... and a miracle of charity all of its own, reports Mary Kemp, who went aboard the flying eye hospital at Schiphol, Holland.

Oliver Foot, the 43-year-old son of Lord Caradon, Britain's one-time ambassador to the United Nations and the nephew of the former Labour leader Michael Foot, explains: "There are 11 cameras dotted all over the

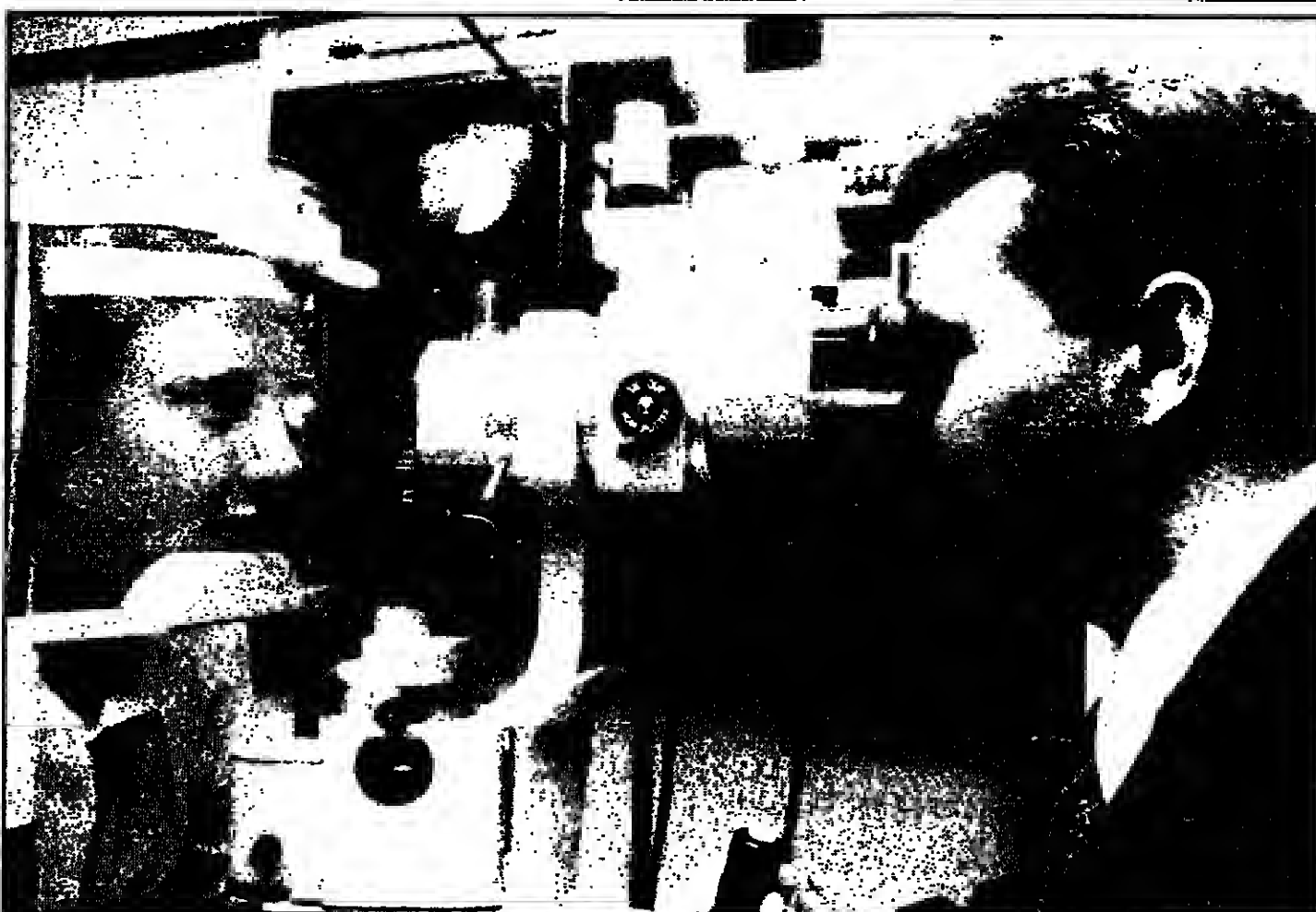
plane. Each operation can be watched, live, by 20 doctors sitting in our classroom on board. Plus we screen it to the airport where a further 300 can watch and learn."

The Great White Bird flies over borders, political differences and wars without missing a beat of its four lusty engines. Oliver adds: "There are some 40 major conflicts in the world. We focus the attention of medical and political leaders on alleviating human suffering through the skills of teaching and goodwill."

In its operating theatre, Jew and Arab and Nicaraguan and American may work together. For miracles know no boundaries.

Take the miracle of Ahmet Soysal, a 16-year-old Turkish boy blinded in both eyes by an accident, who touched the hearts of the entire Orbis team. Oliver Foot recalls: "We sat him in the laser room and after two minutes of laser surgery brought him into the cockpit."

"He was wearing a watch on his wrist that had been given to him on his eighth birthday.



Dr Steve Laukaitis performs laser eye surgery on a patient.

Apparently he had just learned to read the time before he was blinded. "We were all just sitting

around and talking when suddenly Ahmet looked down at his watch and told the time."

"It was wonderful, but what was even more wonderful was that a couple of Turkish eye surgeons had witnessed the operation and had learned how to perform laser surgery. Now thousands of Turks like Ahmet are being cured."

And the doctors and their dedicated team give up worldly wealth to help in the great medical crusade.

Three years ago Dr Steve Laukaitis gave up a lucrative, private practice in America to join Project Orbis. Now, while his colleagues are raking in millions he gets a daily allowance of \$25. Everyone else who works on Orbis gets the same. Instead Dr Laukaitis is rewarded with thousands of "miracles" as he restores the sight of the world's blind.

And they give up, too, much of their private lives. Even though the doctors and nurses are young and lively there is no time for relationships as they are, either airborne or working.

And there are some financial miracles, too. Otherwise the Great White Bird would be long since grounded.

When Orbis was grounded in Florida with \$1 million debts, Oliver Foot flew to Saudi

Arabia, was granted a sitting with the Crown Prince, Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz, and a month later received a donation of half a million dollars.

Nowadays, Oliver gets his money from international corporations and governments. The cost of each three-week mission is between £80,000 and £300,000 depending on how much free fuel and hotel accommodation the project can beg.

One of the jobs of Director of Operations, Patrick Healy, a 35-year-old ex-commercial pilot, is to solicit fuel companies. He explains: "The DC-8 eats up around \$175,000 worth of fuel every year. But the generosity of people is amazing."

"On one visit to the USSR we were given £150,000 worth of fuel and hotel accommodation. We had a fuel leak and a crack on the wing fixed and the Dutch airline KLM offered to foot the £25,000 bill."

Project Orbis was the brain child of a Houston eye-surgeon called Dr David Paton. He believed the most effective way of teaching surgical skills was the direct-hands-on training.

Oliver Foot first met Dr Paton in 1982 while he was visiting his childhood home in Jamaica. His father had been an ambassador

there. Now the former actor, who remembers the Duke of Edinburgh reading him bedtime stories, lives a hectic life flitting between his humble, one-bedroomed apartment in New York and the rest of the world.

While I was at Schiphol the crew of 20, including doctors, nurses, anaesthetists, engineers and administrators were preparing for a gruelling 15 weeks of missions, started in Bulgaria and ending up in Thailand.

Led by the exuberant and affable Oliver Foot, a party of leading Dutch ophthalmologists are being given a guided tour of the DC-8, the oldest still flying in the world. They take a break in the fuselage classroom to watch a video of cataract operation, recorded live when Orbis was in Sudan. Oliver gives a running commentary: "We may carry out up to four operations a day but our primary purpose is to educate ophthalmologists around the world in the business of preventing, treating and curing blindness."

The Dutch visitors stand at the aeroplane's doorway, shaking hands with the entire crew. They turn to climb down the steps to the tarmac.

For hundreds of blind people all over the world this is the first thing they see in their lives.

Polemical goods on show at London

LONDON. (Reuters): A deformed teapot, a chair that would be agony to sit in and clothes that make movement difficult are among 1980s consumer goods in a new display at a famous 19th-century London museum.

The Victoria and Albert (V and A) Museum, better known for its antiques than its modern collections, says the pieces, on show until August 12, have all been chosen for their outstanding designs.

Under the heading "Polemical Goods," visitors can see a twisted blue earthenware object which represents a teapot but looks as though it will not pour tea. The caption explains that British designer Carol McNicol is challenging the consumer by proving that a teapot need not look like a teapot.

The wire mesh armchair, titled "How High the Moon," dated 1986-87, by enigmatic Japanese designer Shiro Kuramata, has no explanation but its impracticality as comfortable seating demonstrates that a chair can be object of contemplation.

A slinky item, black bra dress by Italian designer Franco Moschino has a mini-skirt covered with cumbersome layers of black bra cups and straps that would make walking difficult and provoke mirth in passers-by. Expensive designer objects have recently begun to be valued as art objects.

"Some people keep going to a designer because they are obsessed by that person's work," said Linda Lloyd-Jones, head of exhibitions at the V and A, which houses more objects than any other museum in Britain.

She said the V and A, founded in 1856, is trying to shed its image as an outdated institution that shows only ancient relics, by staging this exhibition called "Collecting for the Future: A Decade of Contemporary Acquisitions."

"It is easy to get the impression that the museum is full of ancient stuff," said Lloyd-Jones, referring to its huge collection of antiquities from across the world.

"This exhibition is to tell the world that we are actively acquiring contemporary objects."

From its earliest days the V and A has collected contemporary design.

'Mermaids' thrive in warm waters

Once feared extinct, dugongs flourish

By Robert Woodward

TOWNSVILLE, Queensland, (Reuters): Environmentalists depressed about rainforest destruction and ozone depletion can turn to northern Australia for solace — "Mermaids" are thriving in the warm waters off the great Barrier Reef.

Twenty years ago scientists feared the dugong, a saltwater mammal whose shyness and size gave rise to the mermaid legends, was so rare it was heading the way of the dodo.

But Dr Helene Marsh, the world's leading expert on the vegetarian dugong, says research off the reef and in the Middle East Gulf shows the dugong is in fact flourishing. It just prefers to keep of people's way.

"They were considered an endangered species because they are very hard to see when they're alive and exceptionally conspicuous when they're dead," Marsh said.

"But when we started doing aerial surveys we found they were everywhere we looked in shallow, sheltered waters. There are heaps more than anyone ever thought, probably around 80,000 in Australian waters alone," she said.

Three metres (10 feet) long, the dugong, also known as a sea grass in tropical waters from East Africa to the South Pacific state of Vanuatu.

The dugong actually bears little resemblance to the popular image of a mermaid. The snub-nosed creature has a whale's tail, hide and hump, which attracted the hunters

and apparently confused lonely seafarers of bygone days.

Marsh, an associate professor of zoology at Townsville's James Cook University, says virtually nothing was known about the dugong in the 1960s when shark nets brought them to the notice of Australian scientists.

The nets were installed off popular bathing beaches in Townsville in 1964. In the first year 84 dugongs were caught in them and drowned.

"People used to say to me, 'Goodness me, look at all those dead ones, there can't possibly be any live one left out there,'" Marsh said.

An American biologist at the university, George Heinsinn, established a carcass salvage operation to study the animal and eventually persuaded the town to reduce the netting.

International wildlife officials placed the dugong on the endangered list in the late 1960s because of its invisibility and the fact its nearest relative, the giant steller sea cow, had been wiped out by hunting off the Aleutian Islands.

Australia outlawed dugong hunting, except by Aborigines, in the 1960s.

Wildlife organisations became extremely concerned about the status of the species in the mid-1980s when a giant oil spill occurred in the Middle East Gulf, a major dugong area.

"About 30 dugongs were washed up on the coast of Saudi Arabia, and as we thought there were only around 50 in the whole Gulf, we thought they must have been wiped out," Marsh said.

Marsh said.

Saudi Arabian authorities proposed to repopulate the Gulf with imported dugongs and asked Marsh's colleague Tony Preen to help them with their plan.

To everyone's amazement, Preen's aerial surveys of the Gulf indicated it contained 7,000 dugongs.

Aerial surveys off Queensland, the northern territory and western Australia also showed large numbers of dugongs and vast undiscovered areas of sea grass, many of which are now official protected breeding grounds.

"They tend to live in muddy water and they're really discreet animals," Marsh said in an interview. "They come to the surface every couple of minutes but are very wary of humans."

Pointing to the shallows of Townsville, Marsh said: "There are about 600 out there, about the same as in Moreton Bay off Brisbane. But University of Queensland researchers had never seen one in Moreton Bay in 25 years work."

Marsh said a dugong's life cycle not allow room for complacency about its chances of survival.

The dugong lives around 70 years, but a female only has a single calf every three to five years, is pregnant for a year and suckles the calf for around 18 months.

"The bottom line is that even with very low natural mortality the population will only increase at around five per cent a year," Marsh said.



A dugong grazes on the seabed accompanied by a calf off the Barrier Reef in Queensland.

Medical News From Britain

Bra may give early warning of breast cancer

TESTS on 15 volunteers in Britain suggest that a temperature-sensitive bra could identify women who are at high risk of developing breast cancer.

The special bra is in fact a thermometric instrument integrated into an ordinary brassiere, with solid-state temperature sensors and a memory system that can store up to 4,000 temperature measurements. Each of the 16 sensors records temperatures every 64 seconds.

The "chronobra" — it gets its name from chronobiology or the study of periodic cycles in living things — is the idea of Prof. Hugh Simpson, a pathologist at the Glasgow Royal Infirmary in Scotland. He and Mr Keith Griffiths, director of the Tenovus Institute for Cancer Research in Cardiff, Wales, have used it to chart changes through the menstrual cycle in the breast temperatures of 15 volunteers.

To make the measurements as accurate as possible, the volunteers wore the chronobra for 90 minutes each evening under controlled conditions. The

researchers predicted that women who were known to be at high risk because they had already had a cancerous lump removed from a breast would show a different pattern of temperature changes from women who were apparently at normal risk. Tests on seven high risk women and eight others matched the prediction, producing significant differences in the temperature cycles of the two groups.

The breasts of women at normal risk reached temperature four days after levels of the hormone progesterone reached a maximum in the monthly cycle. But women at high risk showed no such peak in breast temperature in response to progesterone, suggesting that their breasts were resistant to progesterone and therefore at greater risk of developing cancer.

Prof Simpson and Mr Griffiths believe that the chronobra offers a way of identifying those most at risk years before the cancer itself develops. But it is generally agreed that more research is needed to substantiate the idea.

Vibrant coffee-house tradition goes on

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP): The sounds of centuries echo off the age-stained plaster walls of the Nofara Cafe in Damascus' medieval old city.

Visitors enter to the soft slap of playing cards on wooden tables, the gurgle of water pipes and the hum of conversation mellowed by rich cups of coffee and minty tea.

For nearly 500 years, such coffee houses have served as social centres throughout the Arab world.

Workers, politicians and poets still gather to swap gossip, surrounded by the entrancing aroma of freshly roasted, freshly brewed cups of coffee.

"Here it's a quiet place, so we can meet people," said 58-year-old Ahmed Mohammed Kurdi, a customer sitting beside the heating stove. "We can listen to stories. We can learn about life. We can enjoy the atmosphere."

As his friends chatted over a card game called Kun-Kan, an elderly waiter named

Abu Njib stood nearby preparing tobacco for water pipes.

He deftly squeezed water from sugar-soaked tobacco, mounted it in a holder and topped it with hot coals.

No institutions are more typical of the Arab world than the mosque and the coffee house.

Even the English word coffee descends from the Arabic "kahweb."

Some early Islamic officials tried to ban coffee houses after the beverage spread north from Yemen in the mid-15th century. They often argued that coffee was an intoxicant, like wine, forbidden in Islam.

American scholar Ralph S. Hattox said in his book "Coffee and Coffeehouses" that many early authorities may have been more worried by the subversive conversation and loose morals of coffeehouse society.

But the calm presence of the Nofara, a few steps from Damascus' Grand Mosque,

is testimony that the two sides made their peace long ago.

Storytellers, called "hakawats," once entertained coffee drinkers with tales of Arab history and legend. Only a couple of Damascus coffeehouses still feature them.

Radio and television have driven most story-tellers out of business.

These days, men often gather to watch soccer matches on television as they sip the strong, sugary beverage known as Turkish coffee.

Turkish coffee is made from dark-roasted beans ground to powder, mixed with sugar and repeatedly brought just to a boil. The result can be almost like candy.

Bedouins, though, still greet visitors with tiny cups of bitter Arab coffee. It is boiled from coarsely ground, lightly-roasted coffee flavoured with cardamom seeds.

European or American filtered coffee is common in restaurants, but rare in the coffeehouse or the bedouin tent.

The traditional coffeehouse is a male preserve, often for the middle-aged and elderly.

But young men and women often gather for talk amid the potted plants of establishments such as coffeehouse El Farouky in the chic Shemisan district of Jordan's capital Amman.

The sleek El Farouky features European-style espresso and cappuccino as well as Arabic drinks, but it fails to offer water pipes.

"It is not only the coffee. It's a quiet place to meet people and mingle," said Basma Alush, a 27-year-old woman who works nearby.

"The coffee shops as places have actually been an important element in my poetry," said Mohammed Al Qaisay who was working on verses at a table nearby.

Other Arab writers, notably Egyptian Nobel laureate Nagib Mahfouz, are famed for using a coffeehouse as a window on the world.

MARKETPLACE

13023 SAFAT RUWAIT.

Capriati reaches 3rd final

CONWAY, New Hampshire, July 15. (AP) Fourteen-year-old Jennifer Capriati slammed her way to the brink of her first tournament victory yesterday, defeating Susan Sloane 6-2, 6-2 to reach the final of the Mount Cranmore International Women's Tennis Championship.

Capriati, fresh from record-setting performances in two Grand Slam events in Europe, set the tone of the semifinal in the sixth game of the 25-minute first set.

Leading 3-2, Capriati overcame a 0-40 deficit and survived four game points to break Sloane's serve. She won the next four games, breaking serve twice.

"When it's close like that, when she gets the lead, then she really starts going," the fifth-seeded Sloane, 19, said.

Sloane, losing to Capriati for the fourth time in as many tries, said her top-seeded opponent plays big points well and takes chances to come from behind.

"It's just something, one of those little things I have," Capriati said. "I don't really work at it."

Capriati was to make her third appearance in a final when she met third-seed Ros Fairbank today. Fairbank scored a minor upset with a 7-6 (12-10), 6-2 victory over second-seeded Laura Gildemeister.

Double
Up 4-2 in the second set, Capriati brought a 0-40 deficit to deuce and Sloane lost two game points before holding service with a crosscourt winner.

Capriati held serve to make it 5-2 and won when Sloane hit into the net on double match point. Capriati, the youngest semifinalist in the French Open and the youngest woman to win a match at Wimbledon, had a harder time Friday in beating Stacy Martin 6-4, 7-5. Capriati received two byes into the quarterfinal.

Capriati had 11 double faults in the quarterfinal and only one yesterday.

"First rounds are always kind of shaky for me and as the tournament goes on I get better," she said.

With a hard-hitting baseline game, Capriati wasn't shy about charging the net. At the start of the second set, she walked off the court and sat down, thinking she had won the game when she only had an advantage.

"I was so embarrassed, it was so stupid," she giggled. It took her four more points to win.

Fairbank, 29, was tenacious throughout her semifinal against Gildemeister, especially during the tiebreaker.

Down 4-1 in the first set, Gildemeister brought it back to 4-4. Fairbank hit four aces in the set and held all but one serve.

Fairbank won the second set easily, breaking serve twice and holding her serves.

Lewis outlasts Christie

Zelezny sets world record

OSLO, July 15. (UPI) Jan Zelezny of Czechoslovakia moved the javelin world record another eight centimetres closer to the magical 90-metre mark with a new world best of 89.66 metres in the highlight of yet another fine Bislett Games IAAF Track and Field meet yesterday.

In other feature events, American Joe Falcon sprinted past the field in the closing stages to win the 'Dream Mile' race in a

world seasonal best of 3 minutes 49.31 seconds. Italy's Salvatore Antibo set a best-of-the-year time over 10,000 metres of 27:25.17 and Morocco's Mohamed Issan-gar reached a seasonal best over 3,000 metres with 7 minutes 39.40 seconds.

Six-time Olympic champion Carl Lewis of the United States narrowly averted an upset loss to 1988 Olympic silver medalist Linford Christie, winning the 100

metres in 10.26 seconds, only 0.01 seconds ahead of the Briton.

Zelezny's magnificent throw won his final attempt bettered Briton Steve Backley's 12-day-old world mark by 0.08 metres and was the 57th world record set at the illustrious Bislett Stadium.

The run to become the first man to throw the spear beyond 90 metres took off this year with three world marks in less than four months.

Swede Patrik Boden reached 89.10 metres in a minor event in Austin, Texas, March 24 to shatter Zelezny's previous world mark of 87.66 set in 1987.

"I had not expected a world record tonight," Zelezny said. "I wasn't even supposed to compete at all this year because of a back injury."

Training

The injury prevented the 24-year-old from training between December and March and he had only five events behind him before yesterday's Bislett meet. His Czechoslovak doctor had advised him to stay away from the circuit this year. "I saw a doctor here in Oslo in June who told me I could compete," Zelezny said.

Backley had three powerful throws over 87 metres yesterday and looked set to win the event with his best throw of 87.94, but Zelezny stole the limelight with his world record-breaking final throw.

Falcon, 34, came charging from behind on the final stretch of the featured 'Dream Mile' to outrun Briton Peter Elliott, who held world record pace over the first 1,200 metres of the race.

Falcon's 3:49.32 was the fastest mile time this season, but well outside the world mark of 3:46.32 Briton Steve Cram set here in 1985.

"This was my best race ever," Falcon said. "I knew I had a chance to win if I was in the top four on the final bend."

"I have proved for young American runners that it's possible to match Spivey and Steve Scott, who have been the only prominent American middle distance runners in the last years," he said.

Christie and third-placed Nigerian Olapade Adeniken, only 0.02 seconds off the lead, gave Lewis a terrific duel into a strong headwind in the 400 metres, but the American pipped them both with his trademark spurt near the finish line.

Pleased

"I have never been better this early on in the season," Lewis said. "I was very pleased with my time considering I have had three tough weeks with lots of travelling. I thought I had the race in my hand with five metres left, but they pushed me all the way," he added.

Antibo turned his face back to Morocco's Hammoud Boutayeb on the final stretch of the 10,000-metre race, waved to him scornfully and pulled away to win by 0.32 seconds.

Antibo held world record pace for the first 6,000 metres, but faltered towards the end as Boutayeb refused to help him with the pace-setting.

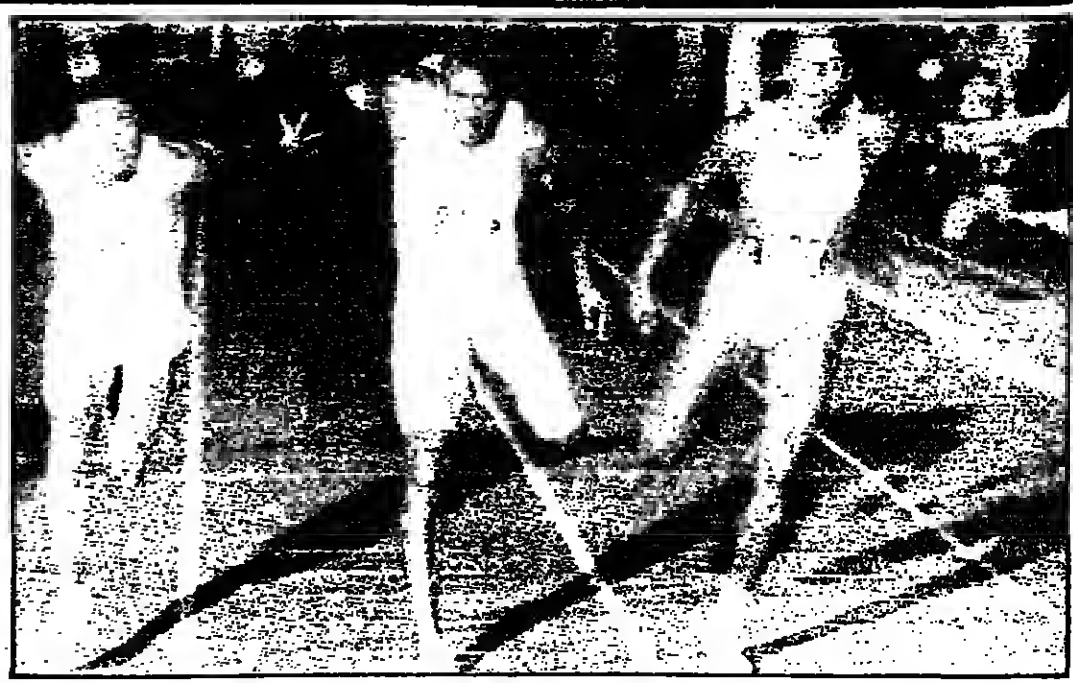
"We had agreed before the race to set the pace (two laps each over the last 5,000 metres)," Antibo said. "He ruined my chance to set the world record when he broke our agreement, but I intend to break the record in the European Championships (in Split, Yugoslavia in late August) instead," he said.

Issan-gar elbowed his way past fellow Moroccan Khalid Skah on the final bend to win a scrappy 3,000 metres.

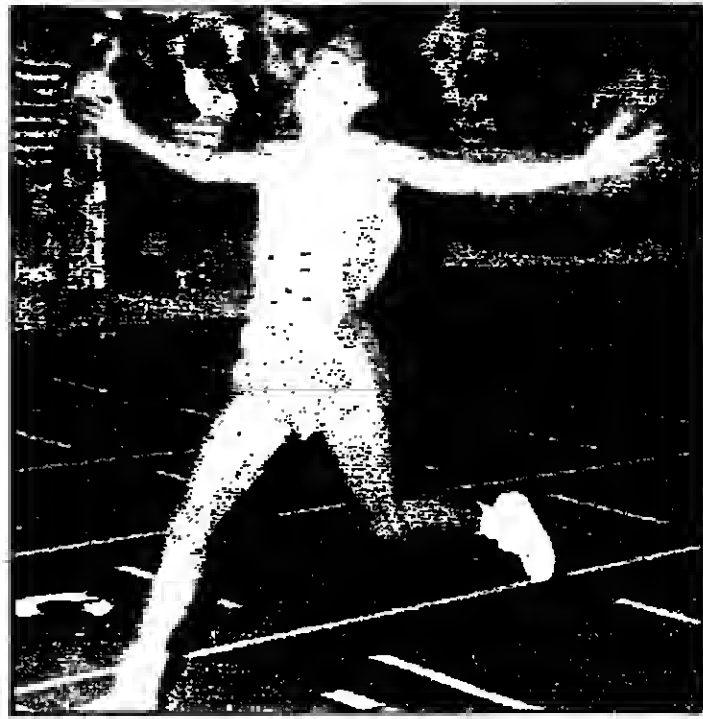
Injured

Issan-gar emerged as another Moroccan running star along with injured superstar Said Aouita and Skah — maybe the most impressive long-distance runner this season — with his seasonal best of 7:39.40.

In other action, American Johnny Gray won the 800 metres in 1 minute 44.84 seconds, his compatriot Antonio Pettigrew prevailed in the 400 metres with 45.37 and Spain's Teofilo Benito won the 1,500 metres in 3 minutes 37.50. The 1976 Olympic champion, 38-year-old New Zealander John Walker finished fourth over 1,500 metres in 3:38.38 in what he said was his last race at Bislett.



Lewis (right) just beats Christie (centre) to the finish line. (Reuters wirephoto)



Falcon wins the Dream Mile. (Reuters wirephoto)

Steinbrenner ready to sue ML baseball

NEW YORK, July 15. (AP) George Steinbrenner is concerned that baseball's investigation into his relationship with Dave Winfield and Howie Spira is biased and is preparing to sue Major League Baseball, the New York Times reported yesterday.

Quoting sources close to the New York Yankees owner, the Times said Steinbrenner believes that John Down, who conducted the inquiry for commissioner Fay Vincent, is biased against him and that he could receive a lengthy suspension from baseball.

Dowd also conducted the investigation into Pete Rose's gambling activities that led to a lifetime suspension for the former Cincinnati manager.

"It was very biased," the Times quoted the source as saying of Dowd's report on Steinbrenner and quoted the source as adding.

"Steinbrenner is getting ready to sue baseball because Steinbrenner is convinced Dowd is out to get him."

Vincent is preparing a decision on the case that could come within the next two weeks. Vincent and Dowd met with Steinbrenner for two days 10 days ago to hear the Yankee owner's side of the story.

It focuses on the triangle involving Steinbrenner, Spira and Winfield, who was traded earlier this season to the California Angels after 10 years with the Yankees in which he fledged constantly with the man known as "The Boss."

Spira, who once was close to Winfield and the Dave Winfield foundation, alleges that Steinbrenner once paid him \$40,000 for information detrimental to Winfield.

The sources said that Steinbrenner is upset because that while Dowd is investigating that transaction, he is not looking into the link between Spira and Winfield.

S. Koreans dominate

KUALA LUMPUR, July 15. (UPI) South Koreans won three of the five titles up for grabs at the \$165,000 Malaysian Open yesterday, by taking both the men's and women's doubles and the mixed doubles events.

In the all-local men's singles final, Rashid Sidek emerged as the first Malaysian to win the title for five years by beating compatriot Foo Kok Keong 18-17, 15-6.

China, the badminton powerhouse, managed to retain the women's single through Huang Hua, who fended off a tenacious Lee Jung Mei of South Korea, 11-3, 7-11, 11-1.

The Chinese defence of the men's title fizzled out in the third round when top seed Xiong Guo Bao retired with a back injury Thursday, while Denmark's hope Morten Frost crashed out on the same day to Indonesia's Heryanto Arbie.

For Rashid, 22, it was his second international crown this year having won the Commonwealth Games title in January.

A jubilant Rashid said he was lucky to win the first game as it was a point-for-point tussle all the way.

"This is more satisfying than winning the Commonwealth title because my target was to win the home tournament. My next target will be this year's World Cup in September," said Rashid, the youngest member of the Sibel badminton dynasty.

His elder brother, Razif and Jantani failed to emulate the triumph of their youngest brother, by going down to favourites Park Joo Bong and Kim Moon-soo of South Korea 4-15, 15-13, 4-15 in the men's doubles final.

Park Joo Bong partnered Chung Meong Hee to beat Jann Paulsen of Denmark and Gillian Gowers of England 15-12, 15-1 in the mixed doubles final.

Cahill triumphs

NEW PORT, Rhode Island, July 15. (AP) Sixth-seeded Darren Cahill of Australia beat No 7 Eric Jelen of West Germany 7-6 (7-4), 6-3 yesterday to advance to the final of the Hall of Fame Championships at the Newport Casino.

Cahill, ranked 86th in the world, will face unseeded Peter Aldrich, a native of South Africa, who beat No 4 Gary Muller 6-4, 7-6 (9-7).

Aldrich, ranked 171st in the world, will play in his first Grand Prix tournament final since joining the Men's Tour in 1986.

Cahill won four of the last five points in claiming the tiebreaker, then broke Jelen, ranked 101st, in the second game for the lone break in the second set.



Zelezny makes a victory sign after breaking the record. (Reuters wirephoto)



Christie (right) and Lewis shake hands after the race. (Reuters wirephoto)

Sabatini, Sampras win

TOKYO, July 15. (AP) Pete Sampras of the United States, blasting 10 aces, captured the men's singles title and Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina took the women's crown today in the Gunze World Tennis Tournament.

Sampras, ranked 18th in the world, romped over No 46 Jaime Yzaga of Peru 6-1, 6-4, on the artificial courts of the Tokyo Metropolitan gymnasium.

Sabatini, broken only once, overwhelmed Ann Grossman of the United States 6-0, in less than an hour. It was a birthday present for her father, Osvaldo, who turned 56 today and was among the nearly 6,000 spectators.

Sampras and Sabatini each earned \$40,000. "I am quite satisfied with today's victory," said Sabatini, who is ranked fifth in the world.

Sabatini broke her opponent's serve in the first, third and fifth games of the first set. In the second set, the Argentine broke four times and was broken in the second game. Grossman netted her volley at match point.

"Everything is working very well today. I made less errors," said Sabatini, who tallied 13 unforced errors.

Sampras' powerful serves were the main factor in his triumph.

In the 10th game of the second set, Yzaga took a 40-15 lead but Sampras battled back to four deuces, then fired a forehand winner to wrap up the game.

Yzaga advanced into the finals by default when Wimbledon champion Stefan Edberg was forced to stop their semifinal match because of a knee injury, Edberg, the top seed, was leading 6-2 when he retired.

Al Wayle, KPBC, Overland and KHC-Bayan defeat opponents in KPBL games

AL WAYLE, KPBC/Greek House, Overland and KHC-Bayan similarly routed their respective opponents in the Trico/KPBL 1990 2nd-Conference on Friday.

Al Wayle 128, Kuwait International Hotel 67.

Al Wayle registered win No. 3 at the expense of Kuwait International Hotel. Final score 128-67. The absence of 3 of their key players (Calagacy, Baherna and San Buenaventura) was never felt by the Al Wayle 5 as they raced to a half-time lead of 24 points (62-38) courtesy of the fine performance of Reyes and Garcia (formerly with the EEI team). In the next 20 minutes of play, Al Wayle more than doubled its first-half output, scoring 66 points unopposedly while limiting their opponents to a measly 29 points.

Top scorers for the Al Wayle team were Garcia 37, Reyes 25, Menez 15, Suecuez 13, Vargas 11 and Dayao 10.

Kuwait International Hotel, now sporting a 1 win-2 loss slate, were led by Perez 27, Morales 14 and Espinosa 9.

The Durrani International, Best Player of the Game was Rey Garcia of the victorious Al Wayle.

KPBC/Greek House 153; Kuwait Computer Association-Byles 79.

KPBC/Greek House streaked to their 4th win in as many outings with a 153-79 mastery of the KCA-Byles quintet. Half-time tally was



Paquito Obando, Geronimo Sadsad, Jaime Santos, Rey Garcia, Edwin Castro, Celso Tuedes and Renato Recto receive their player of the game awards.



63-34 in favour of the winners who drew average performances from the first stringers. In the next 20 minutes of play, KPBC/Greek House exploded for 90 points while allowing the KCA-Byles to toss in 45 markers. The "Macho-Man from Adan/Edwin Castro" was once again instrumental in his team's victory. Voted as the Durrani International Best-Player of the Game, he led all scorers with 42 points and controlled both sides of the boards.

De La Cruz scored 26, Arafol 22, Serrano 19 and Zalvarria 11.

KCA-Byles now with a 0 win-4 loss card were led by Raeho 30,

Castro 21 and Endaya 15.

Overland 110; Pizza Italia 78.

In another fine display of fast-breaking basketball, Overland Transport Co. similarly streaked to its 4th win in as many games via a 110-78 rout of the hard fighting Pizza Italia squad. Half-time tally was 55-35 in favour of Overland who had their hands full in the last 10 minutes of the match.

Leading scorers for Overland were Tuedes 36, Velasco 29 and Lugo 16. The Pizza Italia team which dropped to a 1 win-2 loss slate were led by Hufano 31, De La Cruz 15, Alojado 15 and Gabriel 9.

The Durrani International Best Player of the Game was for the 2nd time around Celso Tuedes of the OTC Trunkers.

KHC-Bayan 123; Kuwait Regency Palace 77.

KHC-Bayan likewise streaked to their 4th win in as many outings as they clobered the Kuwait Regency Palace, final score 123-77. It was another impressive win by the Bayan-based hoteliers who raced to an insurmountable 25 points cushion (61-36) after the last 20 minutes of play. In the 2nd-half, KHC offense forcing the latter to commit several errors and fouls.

KHC-Bayan were led by Durrani International Best Player of the Game Renato Recto who tossed in 42 points. He was ably supported by Ortega 26, Cailles 9, Lising 8, Masquesias 8, Rosales 7.

hitting finish as the highly favoured Al Widad/Capcom failed to live up to the oddsmakers' expectations. Half-time score stood at 34-34 as Al Ghanim Blue Stars' Galicia and Sumaguing combined beautifully to keep within distance of its opponent.

In the next half, Al Widad really were at their worst form in 4 outings as they continued to miss shots that they usually convert. Al Ghanim used this to the fullest and posted several 5 points lead to seize control of the ballgame. In this situation, Al Widad/Capcom found heroes in the persons of Bad-sad and R. Mendoza who bailed them out in the dying seconds of the match.

With the time down to 5 seconds with the count at 78-78 and Al Widad/Capcom inbound in their backcourt, Romy Mendoza got the inbound pass and dribbled all the way down to his front court for the lay-up marginal basket with a foul on an Al Ghanim defender. Simultaneous with this play was a malfunction of the clock which did not move at 5 seconds. Upon consultation with the timer and other table officials, the time was reduced to 2 seconds with the basket counted plus a bonus charity for diminutive R. Mendoza. Mendoza coolly sank the free shot, and time ran out on the Al Ghanim Blue Stars before they could make a clear attempt at the

basket.

Leading scorers for the winners were eventual Durrani International Best Player of the Game Geronimo Sadsad who powered his way with 26 points. He was ably assisted by R. Mendoza 15, Gues 13, Ortiz Luis 12 and Dimla 12.

Al Ghanim Blue Star on the other hand was paced by Galicia 25, Sumaguing 25, De Leon 9, Medina 6 and Alonzo 6.

Hasawi Eagles 100, Kay & Associates 82.

The Hasawi Eagles bounced back into their opening game winning form to turn back Kay & Associates. Final score 100-82. Half-time score was 47-36 in favour of Hasawi who drew inspired performances from Saure, Santos and Guevarra. In the next 20 minutes of the ballgame, Kay and Associates predicament of not having a legitimate centre told heavily on them as Hasawi seize control of both sides of the board. After the final buzzer, it was win No. 2 for the Hasawi Eagles in 4 outings.

Top men for the victors were Santos 27, Saure 23, Guevarra 13, Garlao 8 and Palabrica 6.

Kay & Associates now with a 1 win-2 loss card, were paced by Kai 20, Alvendia 18, Marin 14, Velayo 12 & Quinson 6.

national Best Player of the Game. Results of darts games: Anak Restaurant blanked KHC-Bayan, 7-0.

Al Wayle beat Mabuhay Restaurant, 4-3. SAS Hotel blanked Kamay, 6-1.

After 5 playing days, SAS Hotel leads with 24 points, followed by D'bug, Anak Restaurant with 18 points each, Mabuhay Restaurant with 16 points, Al Wayle with 14 points, Kamay with 11 points and KHC-Bayan with 4 points.

Darts schedules for Friday, July 20, 1990. Starting from 9.00 am:

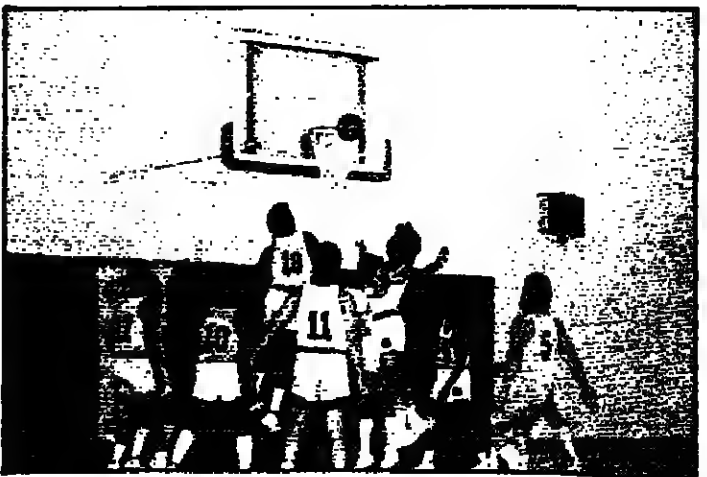
1. Anak Restaurant vs Mabuhay Restaurant.

2. Al Wayle vs KHC-Bayan

3. D'bug vs SAS Hotel

Meeting

An "important meeting" is scheduled for today, 7.30 pm at the Carlton Hotel-Mabuhay Restaurant. The agenda will include among others an "open forum" to discuss the future of the KPBL and its activities. All members of the Secretariat and Board of Govern as well as team representatives of all the participating teams are invited to the meeting.



An action shot of the KPBC-KCA game.



The Alghanim squad.

SPORTS

SPORTS BRIEFS

Hubara bridge

RESULTS of the Hubara Bridge Club game played on Saturday: N/S

1. Adel Bayyumi & Ahmed Tawil
2. Aurora & Gajjar
3. Nabil Akel & Peter Harris
4. Jamila Akel & Kamal Akel
5. Johnny & Farid Ghuneim
6. Najjar & Jawahire

Strong team

NAIROBI, July 15, (UPI): Kenyan Amateur Athletics Association secretary David Okeyo today announced a strong nine-man squad for the Goodwill Games which open in Seattle Friday. The squad includes all four of the runners who won gold medals for Kenya at the 1988 Seoul Olympics — Paul Ereng (800 metres), Peter Kono (1,500 m), John Ngei (5,000 m) and Julius Kariuki (3,000 m steeplechase).

US triumph

PERTH, Australia, July 15, (AP): Roddy Marino and Kevin Cook scored four goals each, leading the United States to a 9-15 victory over Canada today and its third consecutive Lacrosse World Series Championship.

Title sites

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Florida, July 15, (AP): Reaction to criticism that its 1990 championship is at a club that excludes blacks, the Professional Golfers' Association said yesterday it will consider membership policies in selecting future title sites.

Verplank leads

SUTTON, Massachusetts, July 15, (AP): Scott Verplank played bogey-free golf for a second consecutive day and retained a one-stroke lead after yesterday's third round of the Bank of Boston Classic Verplank, seeking his first PGA tour victory since 1988, had a 3-under-par 68 for a 54-hole total of 203, 10 under regulation on Pleasant Valley's 7,110-yard layout.

Horse derby

LEXINGTON, Kentucky, July 15, (AP): Grand Canyon, headed for the Kentucky Derby in May until sidelined by injury, was humanely destroyed yesterday after contracting laminitis, a frequently fatal disease of the hoof, Overbrook Farm said.

Yugoslav star

MARSEILLE, France, July 15, (Reuters): Yugoslav international soccer star Drago Stojkovic has begun training with French League champion Olympique de Marseille for the forthcoming season starting July 21.

IAAF meet

BUDAPEST, July 15, (UPI): Organisers of the IAAF Hungarian Grand Prix Track and Field meeting on Aug 5 have announced the acceptance of a number of internationally recognised athletes, MTL, the Hungarian news agency has reported. Four top American sprinters — Calvin Smith, Dennis Mitchell, Michael Johnson and Lee Merritt — have all accepted the invitation.

Baseball results

NEW YORK, July 15, (Reuters): Results of the Major League baseball games played late last night.

American League	
(1) Kansas City	2
(2) Boston	8
Oakland	3
Chicago W.S.	8
N.Y. Yankees	7
Texas	3
Baltimore	3
California	8
Cleveland	3
National League	
N.Y. Mets	6
Pittsburgh	8
Los Angeles	7
St. Louis	2
(11) Atlanta	3
(12) Minnesota	6
Philadelphia	12
Houston	8

Mansell announces retirement

Prost finishes first

SILVERSTONE, England, July 15, (UPI): World champion Alain Prost won the British Formula One Grand Prix today while disappointed teammate Nigel Mansell used his home race to announce his retirement at the end of the season.

Prost clocked one hour 18 minutes 30.999 seconds over the 64-lap, 190.080 miles (305.920 km) race. He finished ahead of Belgian Thierry Boutsen in a Williams Renault and Brazilian Ayrton Senna in a McLaren Honda.

"The Ferraris are going quite

well at the moment, even though Nigel had a problem today," said Prost.

"The engine is very good, and I'm a bit optimistic also because on the chassis side we are going better than the others, especially McLaren, which is not as good as last year."

Mansell, on the other hand, was distraught not to finish his home Grand Prix, which he led for two different spells before retiring with gearbox failure at the start of the 56th lap.

He said he had gearbox

problems from early on. "Even with the gearbox playing up I could still stay in front," Mansell said. "I was miles quicker than anybody — it was my race."

However, he said his disappointment had nothing to do with his decision to stop racing at the end of the season.

"There's no problem, there's no animosity," he said. "This is something that has been going on for six months now."

Prost's overtaking of Mansell was typically shrewd, when he squeaked past as the Ferrari duo were dealing with backmarker

Alex Caffi.

Senna, who started from the outside of the front row, alongside pole position Man Mansell, got the jump on the Briton and led from the start.

Mansell got past on the 12th to lead, and a lap later Senna spun, pitted for tires and dropped back to 10th.

He gradually worked his way up, assisted by retirements at the front, including that of his McLaren Honda teammate Gerhard Berger, who parked at the side of the track just three laps from the end while running second.

Another notable retirement was Ivan Capelli in a Leyton House Judd.

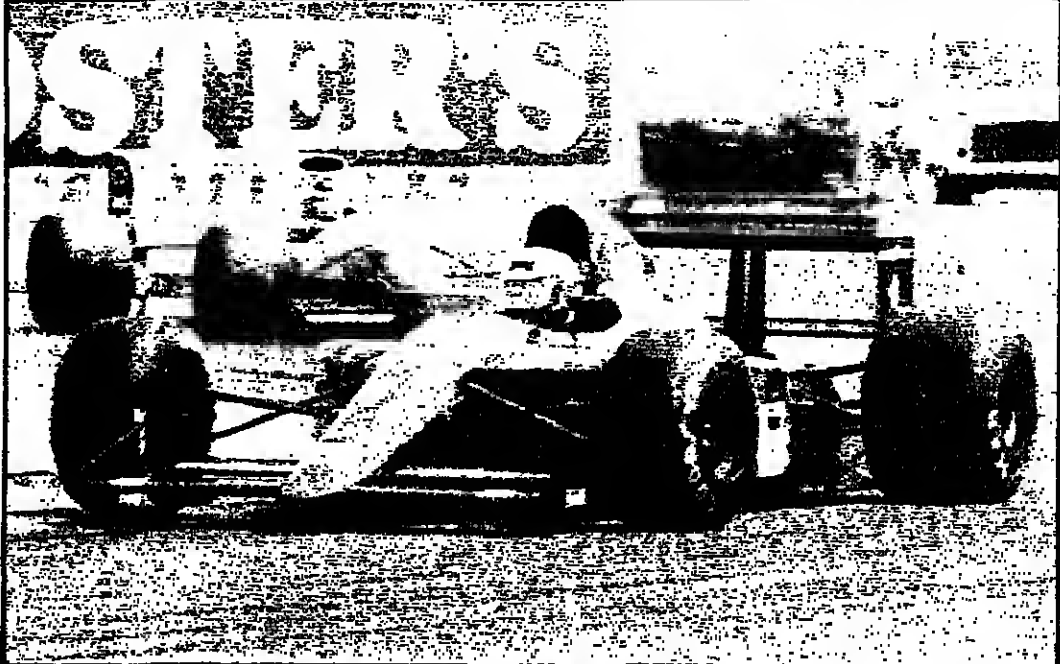
Capelli, who led more than half of last Sunday's French Grand Prix, passed Boutsen and Berger in a spectacular charge but suffered a mechanical failure on the 49th lap while running third.

Results

1. Alain Prost, France, Ferrari, 64, 234.272 kph (145.253 mph). 2. Thierry Boutsen, Belgium, Williams-Renault, 64, 234.272 kph (145.253 mph). 3. Ayrton Senna, Brazil, McLaren-Honda, 64, 4. Eric Bernard, France, Lola-Lamborghini, 64, 5. Nelson Piquet, Brazil, Benetton-Ford, 64, 6. Aguri Suzuki, Japan, Lola-Lamborghini, 62, 7. Alex Caffi, Italy, Arrows-Ford, 63, 8. Jean Alesi, France, Tyrrell-Ford, 63, 9. Stefano Modena, Italy, Brabham-Judd, 62, 10. Nicola Larini, Italy, Ligier-Ford, 62.

Standings

1. Prost, France, 41 points. 2. Senna, Brazil, 39. 3. Gerhard Berger, Austria, McLaren-Honda, 25. 4. Piquet, 18. 5. Boutsen, 17. 6. (Tied) Alesi, 13 and Nigel Mansell, Britain, Ferrari, 13. 8. Riccardo Patrese, Italy, Williams Renault, 10. 9. Alessandro Nannini, Italy, Benetton-Ford, 7. 10. Ivan Capelli, Italy, Leyton House, 6. 11. Eric Bernard, France, Larrousse-Lamborghini, 4.



Prost leads Boutsen during the race. (Reuters wirephoto)

India score easy win

GLASGOW, July 15, (Reuters): An opening partnership of 98 between Wookeri Raman and Navot Sidhu set India on the path to a comfortable seven-wicket win over Scotland in their one-day cricket match yesterday.

With Scotland managing only 196 for seven in their 55 overs, the Indian batsmen found it a simple task to pass their total, reaching 200 for three with 3.3 overs remaining.

Scotland had by far the worst of the conditions after losing the toss and being sent in to bat on a damp pitch.

Half their wickets, including that of Gordon Greengidge for 34, were down for 71 before South African Omar Henry (74) and Bruce Russell (48) boosted the score with a sixth-wicket stand of 122.

Seamer Venkatarathu Raju was the most successful of the Indian bowlers, finishing with three for 22 from his 11 overs.

When India batted, Sidhu was caught on the boundary off Henry's off-spin for 50, which included two sixes and four fours. Raman hit 10 boundaries in making 89 before being caught behind the wicket but by then the result was in no doubt.



Navot Sidhu



Wookeri Raman

SCOTLAND

1. Philip run out 14
G. Greengidge lbw b Sharma 34
B. Patterson c Manjrekar b Raju 0
G. Salmond c Manjrekar b Raju 0
D. Henry c Raman b Kapil Dev 74
D. Haggo c Tendulkar b Raju 8
A. Russell c and b Kapil Dev 48
D. Cowan not out 9
A. Bee not out 2
Extras (lb-1b-3 nb-1) 17
Total (for seven wickets) 196
Fall of wickets: 1-44 2-45 3-45 4-56 5-71 6-193 7-194
Did not bat: C. McKnight, J. Muir
Bowling: Kapil Dev 10-2-25-2, Prabakar 10-2-43-0, Sharma 11-1-

INDIA

1. Sidhu c McKnight b Henry 50
W. Raman c Haggo b Bee 89
S. Manjrekar c Greengidge b Bee 31
S. Tendulkar not out 10
Kapil Dev not out 11
Extras (lb-2 lb-2 w-1 nb-4) 9
Total (for three wickets) 513
Fall of wickets: 1-98 2-160 3-183
Did not bat: M. Azharuddin, M. Prabhakar, V. Raju, K. More, S. Sharma, A. Kumble
Bowling: Muir 9-1-34-0, Cowan 9-3-0-48-0, Bee 11-1-35-2, McKnight 11-2-29-0, Henry 11-0-50-1

Jaite takes Swiss title

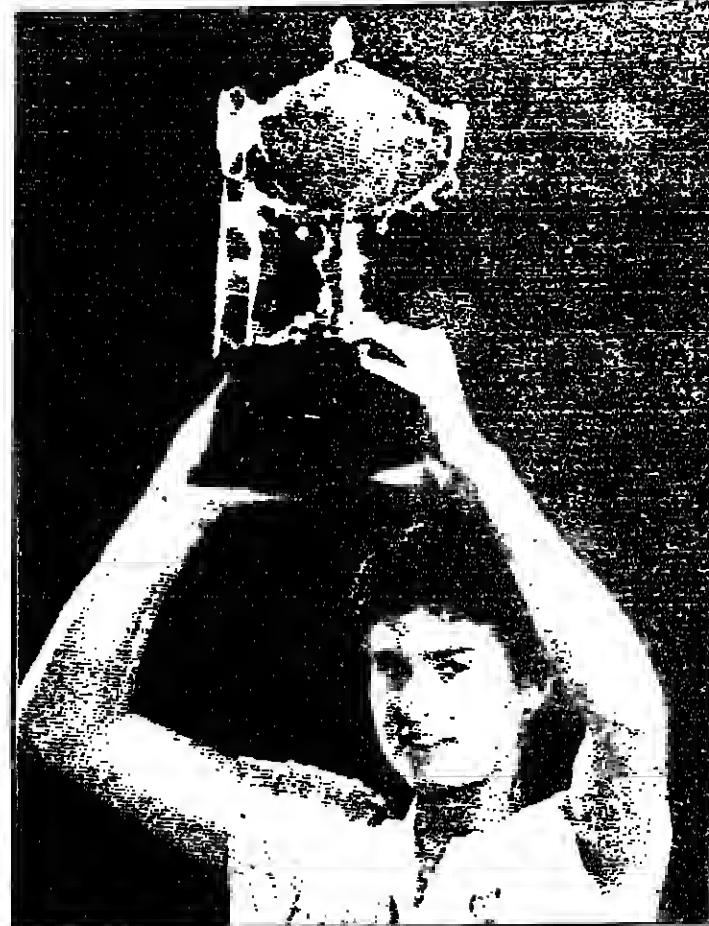
GSTAAD, Switzerland, July 15, (UPI): Third seed Martin Jaite of Argentina defeated upstart Sergi Bruguera of Spain 6-3, 6-7, 5-7, 6-2, 6-2 in the final of the \$305,000 Swiss Tennis Open at Gstaad today.

"I'm happy that I won, because Sergi played very well," said Jaite. "I'm also happy with the crowd, it was a great atmosphere here."

Jaite added: "When I led 5-0 in the fourth set and was close to wrapping it all up, I got nervous. I became afraid of winning."

Bruguera, 19, had his best moments in the second set when he forced it into a tiebreak, falling behind 4-2 before winning it 7-5 with a couple of great passing shots hammered close to the line.

"It was the first time I made the final in a Grand Prix tournament, and I am happy I got that far," Bruguera said. "I began quite well, but I became nervous after taking the second set. I tried to come back in the fourth, but I just didn't have the legs. I felt a bit tired."



Sabatini triumphs

Gabriela Sabatini shows off the trophy she won in the Tokyo tennis tourney yesterday. (Reuters wirephoto)

See also Page 19

Spaniard takes stage

MILLAU, France, July 15, (AP): Marino Lejarreta of Spain broke away on his own with four kilometres (2.5 miles) and won the 14th stage of the Tour de France today while Eric Breukink and Greg Lemond closed on overall leader Claudio Chiappucci.

After several failed attacks and breakaway attempts by various cyclists during the 205-kilometre (127.5-mile) leg, the lead group headed by Lemond, Breukink, Pedro Delgado of Spain and Chiappucci approached the final hill, a first-category climb outside Millau.

Lejarreta was finally able to break free to win the stage, followed by Miguel Indurain of Spain and Gianni Bugno of Italy 24 seconds back. Lemond, Breukink and Delgado were another 10 seconds back, gaining 13 seconds of Chiappucci, who faltered in the final kilometres (miles).

Today's results left Chiappucci with a one-minute-49-second lead over Breukink in second place and a 2:21 advantage over Lemond in third.

"In the last climb we watched each other," Lemond said. "Breukink fell behind but he was back very quickly."

Ronan Pensec was fourth overall as the tour ended its second week. 4:24 behind Chiappucci with Delgado fifth, another two seconds back. Despite a reputation for being flat and relatively uneventful, yesterday, 13th stage — which followed the alpine climbs and a day of rest — saw Lemond and Breukink gain nearly five minutes.



Knights Baronesse wins

Knights Baronesse (central), ridden by T.R. Quinn, won the Irish Oaks at the Curragh racecourse, in Dublin, on Saturday (Reuters wirephoto)

Lancashire clinch Cup

LONDON, July 15, (Reuters): Worcestershire failed in a Lord's Cricket Cup final again yesterday when Lancashire beat them by 69 runs in the Benson and Hedges 55 overs-a-side competition.

Ian Botham's gesture of despair summed up Worcestershire's sorrow as the Lord's jinx struck again.

The once all-conquering all-rounder had just been bowled for 38 by Phil DeFreitas. With one shrug of his broad shoulders he effectively signalled surrender.

Worcestershire, beaten in all five of their previous Lord's finals, were once more second best.

Needing 342 for victory, they seldom looked like breaking Lancashire's grip after a magnificent early spell from Wasim Akram and were eventually dismissed for 172.

The Pakistani fast bowler removed Tim Curtis (16) and Graeme Hick (nine) in the space of three overs with superb deliveries. After that not even Botham could work a miracle.

He toiled 95 minutes while trying to salvage a lost cause before finally being seventh out.

DeFreitas's vital wicket sealed a marvellous day for Lancashire in general and captain David Hughes, aged 43, in particular.

The award for Man of the Match went to Lancashire all-rounder Mike Watkinson. He took two for 37 in his 11 overs after to scoring with 50 in Lancashire's 241 for eight.



Wasim Akram

New Zealand beat Britain in final Test

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand, July 15, (Reuters): New Zealand picked up two valuable World Cup points and avoided a clean sweep when they beat Britain 21-18 in the final Rugby League Test today.

Britain, which narrowly won the first two Tests, kept the pressure on right up to the final whistle. They scored three tries to New Zealand's two.

The tourists started off well. However, they let the Kiwis off the hook in sensational circumstances after seven minutes when Martin Ollish missed up what would have been a great try.

The highly rated winger, who scored his first try in last Sunday's second Test, ran in under the posts but fumbled the ball when he went for an American-style touchdown rather than the textbook dive.

New Zealand was first on the scoreboard with a Matthew Ridge penalty awarded when firebrand British scrumhalf Bobby Goulding landed an unprovoked fist in Gary Freeman's face. Goulding was sin-binned for 10 minutes.

Garry Schofield outfoxed the Kiwis for another week when he threw a dummy pass and ran in for a try that brought up his 100 Test points. Jonathan Davies missed the conversion but gave Britain a 6-4 lead with a penalty after 19 minutes.

The Kiwis made repeated assaults on the British goal line but were driven back by solid defence. Standoff Tony Kemp, playing his first game in that position after being dropped last week, regained the lead for New



Banco Nacion's Guillermo Benedelo (right) grabs England's John Buchon. (Reuters wirephoto)

Zealand with a powerful try set up by Darrell Williams.

Rugby union defector Matthew Ridge continued his dream run with six goals from six attempts.

The Kiwis, who led 18-6 at half-time, were firmly in the driving seat despite being thwarted often just inches from the line.

They had to bang on grimly in the second half for their first home victory in two years as the visitors bounced back with fresh determination.

■ And in Buenos Aires, Argentina's rugby union champions, Banco Nacion, surprised an English national squad yesterday, beating them 29-21 (half-time 12-4) in England's first match of an Argentine tour.

England, fielding only four

veterans of the side which finished runners-up in the five nations tournament, trailed throughout the match. Former Argentine "Pumas" captain and fly-half Hugo Porta, 38, scored 21 of his team's points.

The local champions stood their ground against the heftier English pack in the scrums and outfoxed them in the lineouts. They also tackled hard and fed the ball quickly to wingers.

"I'm very happy with this result. Everything came out as we planned. For us it's a historic victory but for England it was just a first match in a tour," Porta said.

"We showed our lack of much practice far more than I hoped we would and we made many simple errors we should not have made



Britain's Paul Dixon lands on his head. (Reuters wirephoto)

with or without practice," said England manager Geoff Cooke.

Cooke earlier said England had

brought out a young team as part of its programme to build up for the 1991 World Cup.

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